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20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,064

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1994

Clinton sends in troops to restore democracy after Carter brokers peace deal

US takes Haiti without a shot

FROM TOM RHODES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE
AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

UNITED States troops landed in Haiti without a shot being fired yesterday to begin their mission to restore democracy to the impoverished Caribbean nation.

As AC130 gunships clattered in the skies keeping constant patrol over the capital, Port-au-Prince, Cobra and Black Hawk helicopters unloaded a vanguard of soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division to secure the international airport. Hundreds of Haitians gathered to watch

No British role

Douglas Hurd said in Tokyo that if there had been an invasion Britain would have played a naval role but now it would not be involved

the incoming forces, some cheering, others apparently apprehensive.

In all, up to 15,000 Americans are on their way. The first troops to land stepped carefully from the helicopters clutching automatic rifles. They were met by Haitian military commanders on the tarmac.

The troops were followed by General Hugh Shelton, field commander for the Haiti operation and former head of the 82nd Airborne division. His first task was to meet Lieutenant General Raoul Cédras, leader of the military junta, who had agreed to relinquish power under an agreement reached the previous night.

Outside the military headquarters in Port-au-Prince,

General Shelton described their discussions as cordial. He said: "General Cédras was very co-operative. We have been very warmly received by the military and the Haitian people."

"We are not an occupying force. We are here to assist the Haitian people in restoring their legitimate government. Our mission here is to prevent civil disturbances." He added that troops would enter Port-au-Prince yesterday only to ensure security in the capital, but he made no mention of others who had been expected to land at Cap-Haitien to the north.

At dawn, two United States warships and a smaller Coast Guard cutter slid into the capital's port to safeguard the country's main harbour. Almost all the watching Haitians felt that finally they were witnessing the transition they had prayed for since Jean-Bertrand Aristide, their elected President, was ousted in September 1991.

Thousands of other Haitians, including members of the military, had already fled to the mountains. They had been expecting the Americans to land in force.

In the meantime, in New York, members of the United Nations Security Council were expected to meet yesterday afternoon to discuss the lifting of the crippling American-led embargo on trade with Haiti.

Although the initial landings appeared to run smoothly, there was still concern among American officials that the situation was entirely fluid. Emile Jonaissant, presi-



In the first wave of US landings, Blackhawk helicopters take off after unloading soldiers on the tarmac at Port-au-Prince airport yesterday

dent of the de facto government, who had appealed for calm, made a radio statement yesterday describing the American army's arrival as a training exercise.

The agreement made between former President Carter and General Cédras and General Philippe Biamby, the Haitian army Chief of Staff, had been opposed by others in the military junta. Colonel Michel François, the third leading member of the junta, had not been party to the

marathon talks with the American delegation, which had included General Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Senator Sam Nunn.

Colonel François was said yesterday to have gone into "virtual hiding" after the deal was struck late on Sunday.

The accord was not signed by either General Cédras or General Biamby and neither is actually named: equally, there is no mention of Mr Aristide or when he is to

return to govern the country. The junta has agreed to step down by October 15 or as soon as an amnesty law is passed by the Haitian parliament to protect the army and its supporters from retribution. Political observers think it unlikely that such a law will be passed.

The fact that none of the leading high command is required to leave the country has renewed fears among supporters of Mr Aristide that General Cédras will re-

nege on the deal. In Washington, President Clinton was forced to contradict his own top officials by admitting that under the terms of Sunday night's agreement Haiti's military leaders would quite probably not leave the country when they surrender power in four weeks' time. Critics contended that this important concession would make it far harder for American troops to build a lasting peace in a country where the past three years of military repression

have engendered such deep bitterness and enmity. President Aristide, in Washington, signalled his displeasure by saying nothing.

Secret call, page 14
Leading article, page 19

New talks lift hopes of peace in rail dispute

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FRESH talks on the rail signal workers' dispute will take place today with hopes high of a settlement being reached.

But leaders of the RMT rail union yesterday set new strikes for Thursday and Friday next week, in addition to the 24-hour stoppage planned this Friday, and called a separate strike, also for Friday next week, on London Underground. However, it seems highly likely that all the strikes called for next week will be averted.

Officials from the conciliation service Acas last night contacted RMT leaders and senior Railtrack managers about talks today after the RMT's executive approved a call from the union's signal workers for parallel negotiations on their 11 per cent pay claim for past productivity improvements and Railtrack's offer of a restructuring package to cover future efficiency gains.

Insisting that the union's decision was not a climbdown, the RMT said that it had taken an initiative to reach a negotiated settlement, and that Railtrack should match the union's responsible attitude.

Jimmy Knapp, the RMT general secretary, said that the decision did not mean a settlement was around the corner. The union said it would be premature to consider lifting Friday's strike, and the law required that seven days' notice be given of stoppages. Mr Knapp said: "The sooner we can get down to negotiations, the sooner the threat of future action can be removed."

Last night, Railtrack said it was keen to begin negotiations on restructuring. The company said of the RMT decision: "It is a way forward, we will welcome it," but it described as "unfortunate" the calling of further strikes.

Lib Dems vote to legalise cannabis

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALICE THOMSON

LIBERAL Democrats voted last night to decriminalise the use of cannabis in a shock decision that will undermine Paddy Ashdown's drive to woo disgruntled Tory voters.

The party's annual conference in Brighton voted by 426

votes to 375 in favour of ending prosecution for the use and possession of cannabis, despite appeals from party leaders not to act precipitately.

The decision by the party rank-and-file gave the government and Labour ammunition for their claims that the centre party is soft on crime and in thrall to its "loony fringe".

Paddy Ashdown, the Lib-Dem leader, who will face another test today when the conference holds a debate on scrapping the monarchy, left the dais before the vote was counted. He indicated that he would ignore his activists. Alan Beith, the deputy leader, said that all 23 MPs had voted against the move.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Conference reports, page 9

Glasgow bus driver had fatal crash two weeks ago

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE 25-year-old driver of the bus which crashed into a railway bridge in Glasgow killing four people and seriously injuring seven children on Sunday night had passed his bus driving test less than six months ago. He had been involved in another fatal crash a fortnight earlier.

Yesterday police were questioning the unnamed driver from the bus company, Clydeside 2000. A report is expected to be sent to the Procurator Fiscal and an inquiry into the crash is likely.

A ten-year-old girl died in hospital in the early hours of yesterday morning, taking the death toll to four. Yesterday police named the dead as: Mary McGreskin, 39; Rena



Margaret Riddick, 10, who died in the crash



Catherine McKnight, 10, who also died

Dougall, 47; Catherine McKnight, 10; and Margaret Riddick, 10. They were all from the Drumchapel area of Glasgow.

The bus, a double-decker over 13ft tall was sliced in two

at seat level when it went under a 10ft 6in bridge in West Street. It had been hired by two troops of girl guides who were returning from a day out at Butlins in Ayr. Mrs

Continued on page 2, col 3

Major predicts booming Britain

In his most upbeat assessment of the economy John Major told an audience of British businessmen in Saudi Arabia that Britain was "at the threshold of an economic recovery unlike any we have seen since the Second World War". Page 2

Tennis star dies

Vitas Gerulaitis, 40, the American tennis star whose exuberant playing style was matched by a reckless and flamboyant life off the court, has been found dead in Southampton, Long Island. Pages 3, 42
Obituary, page 21

Dearer mortgages

Halifax, the country's biggest mortgage lender, responded to last week's monetary tightening by upping its lending rate to 8.1 per cent from 7.64 per cent. Barclays matched the increase. Page 25

Tom King to head parliamentary spy watchdog

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major is expected to appoint Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, to head a new parliamentary committee overseeing the security and intelligence services.

Nine members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords are to be appointed to the committee, which will examine the expenditure, administration and

policy of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the communications monitoring service at Cheltenham.

The setting up of a committee, which will provide the first parliamentary review of the secret services since they were founded early this century, was included in the Intelligence Services Act given the Royal Assent in May.

Mr King is understood to have been among a small number of senior backbench-

ers considered for the sensitive post of chairman. Under the Act, the choice of all the members, including the chairman, is the prerogative of the Prime Minister after consultation with Tony Blair, the Labour leader.

Mr King's background as Defence Secretary and as Northern Ireland Secretary made him an obvious candidate. As Northern Ireland Secretary, in particular, he would have had close contact

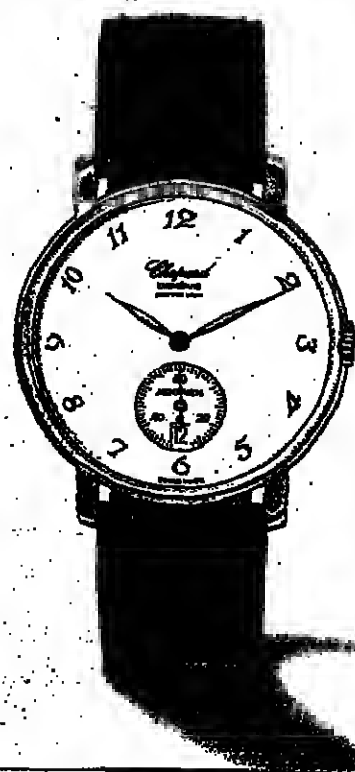
with all three services. In deciding the composition of the rest of the committee, Mr Major will be expected by MPs and the services themselves to achieve a balance that will ensure rigorous oversight without reducing effectiveness.

One of the committee's priorities is expected to be an examination of the changing role of the services in the light of the end of the Cold War and the IRA's ceasefire.



King: has had contact with all secret services

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LibDems grasp an issue of substance

Look hard at the Liberal Democrat logo and forget that it is the bird of freedom. It really does look remarkably like an unrolled spliff. It was very much in this spirit that, here in Brighton, the party has voted to decriminalise cannabis.

But then Liberals have always favoured minority causes. All across the conference centre and around the town, the love that dare not speak its name whispers insistently in secluded corners. Truly, the emotional pull that Liberal Democrats feel towards Tony Blair, though booted on the platform, haunts every closet. I am sure I saw Margaret Beckett, disguised as a barmaid, serving drinks at the Grand last night.

Paddy denies it. Wearing his celebrated "I suffer but I

go on" look, eyes narrowed to the flinty slits of one who has stared too long into the sun of a glorious Liberal tomorrow, Captain Ashdown kicked off with a press conference. He yearned, he said, to discuss "issues of substance". But nobody wanted to ask him about anything but his party's secret obsession. Smiling, journalists call him Paddy, and he calls them Phil, or Nick. Then they ask the rudest questions. "Do you still matter?" asks Nick (or was it Phil?) of Paddy. Paddy responded with a loving glance. "We don't believe with it, Paddy," said the second questioner. Welcomed to the seaside with the suggestion that he didn't matter, or was a liar, or both, lesser men would have packed up and gone home. But the Captain is made of sterner stuff.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Wearily he tried again to explain, in that pained, compassionate way that resembles Our Lord taunted by Pharisees, what he meant by "equidistance" from the two major parties.

Equidistance, like proportional representation, has too many syllables to fit into a stick of Brighton rock, or a media person's head, so the Captain is unlikely to get far with it. Phil (or was it Nick?) put it to him that "two of your most senior colleagues are suffering a crisis of confidence". One of those thus accused is Baroness Williams of Crosby — she of the alluring 30-Captains-a-day

voice. Every Liberal Democrat needs a mother-figure and with the massive and wonderful Baroness Seear now well into her 80s, Lady Williams bids fair to inherit the Seear brassiere, though none will ever fill it. Lady Williams spoke on Sunday evening. "I'm very happy to remain in the party I belong to," she husked. Everyone clapped. Only among Liberal Democrats could the news that someone is not leaving be a matter for applause.

She was joined by Anita Roddick, Paddy Ashdown and David Chidgey. What, we mused, could these people have in common? Two of

them — Roddick and Ashdown — control businesses whose stocks have plummeted recently. And with Lady Williams they share the anxiety of ageing ideological pin-ups in danger of being out-flanked. Was this a mutual support group?

"You can bring your heart to work with you!" declared Ms Roddick, later revealing to a bemused audience that there exists a splendid tribe where the highest aim of men is to be reincarnated as women. This coded message of support for Liberal Democrat cross-dressers met a confused reception, many falling, and others retching, in the attempt to picture Paddy as Patricia.

"It's terribly moving," trilled Anita, "to see little crocodile lines of kids going round the work place offer-

ing organically-grown apples to their mums and dads."

"I think I'm going to be sick," whispered the man behind me. "I wonder if you know how much that will have inspired millions of people," gushed Mr Ashdown.

It certainly inspired Mrs Williams. Paddy looked ecstatic. All three grinned, teeth clenched, from the big table. Paddy Ashdown, Anita Roddick, Lady Williams and David Chidgey MP (East-leigh). Dinner party from hell.

And now drugs. They speak in horror here of substances that bend the mind, wreck judgment and sever links with reality. They speak of crack and LSD. Nobody has mentioned the most potent hallucinogen of all: Liberal Democracy.

Major proclaims historic turning point for economy

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN ABU DHABI

JOHN Major declared yesterday that Britain was at an "historic turning point", as he gave his most upbeat assessment of the economy since the last general election.

The Prime Minister chose an audience of British businessmen in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to assert that Britain was "at the threshold of an economic recovery unlike any we have seen since the Second World War".

But he also gave a strong signal that he was prepared to see further interest rate rises to contain inflation and ensure that the recovery was not "wrecked" by overheating. In his first detailed comments on last week's surprise 0.5 percentage-point rise in interest rates, Mr Major said: "We are going to take no risks whatever with inflation." He said that the Government would do whatever was needed to ensure the recovery lasted.

His remarks confirmed indications that the tough line taken by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, last week in raising interest rates and warning of further rises was as much driven by Downing Street as by the Treasury.

Mr Major's decision to hail the recovery in such outspoken terms marked a break with the cautious approach adopted by ministers since the "green shoots" detected by Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, failed to materialise.

The Prime Minister's bullish line was backed last night by Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, who is with Mr Major on his week-long trip to the Gulf and South Africa.

Mr Davies said the CBI's view was very positive and its surveys showed the highest level of business confidence since 1988. The CBI was also optimistic about the economy, although Mr Davies suggested the Prime Minister's language might be more "colourful and hyperbolic" than he would have chosen. He also appeared relaxed about Mr Major's warnings on interest rates, suggesting



Davies backed Major's bullishness

that the CBI expected rates to reach between 6 and 7 per cent in 1995. "Rates might have to go up but not very much," he said. "We do not think the inflationary pressures are very strong."

Mr Major's remarks follow a decision by the political session of the Cabinet last week to concentrate the Tory message in the weeks up to and during the party conference next month on the recovery for which strategists believe the Government has gained scant credit. Mr Major said "the scale of the opportu-

Halifax mortgage rate rises to 8.1%

THE Halifax, Britain's largest mortgage lender, yesterday raised its mortgage rate to 8.1 per cent from 7.64 per cent with immediate effect for new borrowers and from October 1 for existing borrowers. Savings rates will "follow in due course", the Halifax said in a statement yesterday. Barclays Bank also raised its standard variable mortgage rate to 8.1 per cent. The increases were announced in the wake of last week's 0.5 percentage point rise in the Bank of England's base rate to 5.75 per cent. National Savings has announced a series of new issues for fixed-interest products. Details, page 25

nities that lie immediately ahead of us are not wholly appreciated."

He said: "We are determined that this is going to be a recovery without inflation, a recovery that will last, a recovery that will act as a spur for exporters to capture and hold foreign markets."

All the indicators showed that the recovery was happening, with output rising, the fastest industrial production in the European Union, rising investment and falling unemployment. "Of course not every statistic on every occasion is going to be a good one. This is not the way the real world works, but overall the direction is perfectly clear. Britain is clearly on course for a long-term economic recovery based on sustainable growth, low inflation and sound public finances."

Then came his warning on interest rates: "We are determined to keep it that way. Almost every previous economic recovery we have seen has been wrecked by overheating. Time and again, frustratingly, when things start seeming to go right they suddenly go too right too quickly and we have headed off into difficulties again."

"I am determined not to allow this recovery to be endangered in this way. We are going to take no risks whatever with inflation. The British public and British business require stability and predictability in their household budgets, mortgage repayments, investment decisions and export pricing."

"It is only when they have confidence in those things that they will be able to take decisions with confidence in the future. That was the reason last week we moved to raise interest rates."

Mr Major said "short-termism" was not going to be an option. "We are playing for the long term: long-term prosperity, long-term jobs and long-term growth. The Government will do whatever it can and whatever it needs to ensure that it is continuing."

Saudis seek help, page 15



A survivor of the Borneo exercise is helped from a Malaysian Air Force helicopter

Army rethinks guidelines for adventure training

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NEW guidelines for Army adventure training expeditions will be published today after an inquiry into the rescue of five soldiers who went missing for more than three weeks in the Borneo jungle.

The Army board of inquiry's 800-page report is expected to be critical of the fitness of several members of the ten-man team which became split during appalling weather. Five of the soldiers succeeded in completing a perilous 2,000ft descent into Low's Gully on Mount Kinabalu, southeast Asia's highest mountain. They emerged safe-

ly from the jungle, although one had fallen 60ft and was badly concussed.

The other five, led by the expedition commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Neil of the Royal Logistics Corps, and his deputy, Major Ron Foster, a Territorial Army officer, decided against continuing and waited to be rescued along with three Hong Kong soldiers.

The report is expected to be critical of the decision by the Chinese soldiers to abandon some of the rations as they were climbing the mountain. By the time they were rescued,

they had had to survive for five days without food. The team had brought rations for only ten days. By the time they were rescued they had been missing for 29 days.

The official report, which includes long interviews with each of the expedition members, is not being published in full. Only the board's findings will be released. Although preparations for the expedition are understood to receive only muted criticism, fresh guidelines have been recommended to ensure that fitness and competence tests are rigorously applied.

Universities face recruitment slump

Some universities are planning to head off a damaging slump in student recruitment as at least 5,000 higher education vacancies remained yesterday. Most places are expected to be filled by the start of the academic year next week, but Dr Noel Morrison, head of admissions at South Bank University in London, said: "We will be taking steps to ensure that we retain our market share next year. We are planning to advertise more and use direct mail, as well as doing more promotional work in schools and colleges."

UCAS vacancies, page 38

Tunnel set to open

Eurotunnel will begin phasing in a full service for its Channel Tunnel tourist trains from mid-November, 18 months later than planned. Only selected passengers will be carried from October 3 to November 15, after which the company should receive its operating certificate.

The Tunnel now standing, page 29

Drug killed girlfriend

A man was jailed for 12 months yesterday for supplying the drug Ecstasy to his 17-year-old girlfriend, who died in hospital the same evening. Steven Mitchell, 23, of Bothwell, Strathclyde, gave the five tablets to Donna Sims during a party at her home. Hamilton Sheriff Court was told. Miss Sims' mother shouted in court: "I hope you rot in hell."

Jail chief criticised

Staff at a Durham high security jail, where a gun and ammunition were discovered last week, have passed a no confidence vote in Ray Mitchell, the governor, saying they fear for their safety. They are angry that Mr Mitchell refused to order a second search when rumours of another weapon circulated 24 hours after the find.

Death crash man guilty

A lorry driver was jailed for 15 months after being convicted at Hereford Crown Court of causing the deaths of five women by dangerous driving on the M50. Peter Young, 47, was trying to jump a queue of traffic at 61mph when he hit a Ford Fiesta, killing four nurses inside. A passenger in another car also died.

Faulds to quit as MP

Andrew Faulds, the Labour MP and former actor, announced last night that he will stand down at the next general election. The 71-year-old MP for Warrley East, who is regarded as one of the great parliamentary characters, was in a car crash last month while on holiday in Cyprus, severely damaging his left knee.

BR to sell Old Masters

The British Rail pension fund is to sell 17 Old Master paintings at Sotheby's in London on December 7, it was announced yesterday. The sale is expected to raise £5 million. The fund has 200,000 pensioners. Its art investment portfolio represents about 1.5 per cent of its total investment, worth approximately £90 million.

Train driver jailed

A British Rail driver was found in a drunken stupor at his stationary passenger train, with his feet propped against the controls, was jailed for six months by Highgate magistrates. George Murray, 34, of Camden, north London, admitted being unfit while in charge of a train on July 2 between South Tottenham and Harringay stations.

Fewer elephants killed

Elephant poaching has slumped dramatically during the past five years after a worldwide ban on the trade in ivory and skins, a report claims today. In Kenya, where 5,000 animals a year were being slaughtered illegally before 1989, the number of elephants poached has been cut to 50, the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency said.

Sentence 'too lenient'

Kerry Stull, 35, and his brother Andrew McAllister, 31, from Wrexham, Chwyd, who killed a pensioner by firing a machine distress rocket at a football match, could receive longer jail sentences. The Attorney-General has agreed to refer their case for a review by Appeal Court judges on the grounds that their three-year prison term was too lenient.

Young mother jailed

A young mother who gave her cousin's name when she was stopped for driving without road tax was jailed for a month yesterday at Portsmouth Crown Court. Carol Bow, 21, from Denmead, Hampshire, a single parent with a two-year-old daughter, collapsed in the dock as sentence was passed. She admitted perverting the course of justice.

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Glasgow driver's second fatal crash

Dougall's two daughters, Andrea, 19, and Olivia, 17, were on the same bus and found their mother's body in the wreckage. The girls were saved because they were sitting downstairs. Their mother had been on the top deck supervising.

Joe McKnight, the father of Catherine McKnight, revealed yesterday that he had endured a desperate five-hour wait before he found out that his daughter was dead. Mr McKnight arrived at St Andrew's Church at 6.30pm to collect his daughter. When news of the accident came through he went to West Street and then toured the hospitals but did not discover that his daughter was among the dead until 11.30pm.

"We are shattered," he said. "We can't understand why the bus went the way it did. It should have come back the way it went."

Six other young girls were seriously injured in the crash and remain in a stable condition in hospital. Most of them have head injuries. The less seriously injured among the 22 children and

seven adults were discharged on Sunday night.

Prayers were said yesterday for the dead girls and for Louise Gailie, one of the injured, at their school, Pinewood Primary School in Drumchapel. Many of the children were in tears at the morning assembly. "The whole school community is shocked and stunned by the tragic death of two lovely pupils," said Mary Brownlie, the headmistress.

Alistair Mackie, commercial director of Clydeside 2000, said that the driver of the bus had not been to blame for the crash a fortnight ago when his empty bus collided with a car as he was leaving the company's depot in Thornliebank, Glasgow. The driver of the car died and the accident is the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

The driver of a coach which crashed near Bristol, killing a Royal Marines bandman and injuring 45 others, had steered towards a 20ft motorway embankment in a bid to avoid stationary cars and people on the road.

Sinn Fein leader rejects Major's call for referendum as premature

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, PHILIP WEBSTER, AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

GERRY Adams yesterday rejected John Major's plan for a referendum on the future of Northern Ireland as "premature and presumptuous".

In his first public comment since Friday, when the Prime Minister lifted the broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein, Mr Adams said the Government's position was at odds with international opinion.

The Sinn Fein president said: "The six-county statelet [Northern Ireland] is an artificial entity with an inbuilt and permanent Unionist majority. The British Government's imposed veto based on this artificial majority is undemocratic and unacceptable." He said decisions on how to measure agreement should be reached in negotiations which should begin as soon as possible.

However, Mr Adams said the lifting of the broadcasting ban and the announcement that some cross-border roads would be re-opened were "a small but welcome step by the British Government". But he

added: "The process of demilitarisation must be accelerated. All border roads should be reopened immediately and compensation paid to local communities [which] have been detrimentally affected."

Mr Adams's forthright rejection of one of the pillars of Mr Major's peace proposals shows the obstacles that will face officials once they start exploratory talks with Sinn Fein if the Government is satisfied that the IRA ceasefire is permanent.

Yesterday, Mr Major edged further towards acceptance of the ceasefire. Quoted during his visit to Saudi Arabia, he said the IRA were "very close" to providing the assurances that London had sought since the announcement more than two weeks ago.

The Prime Minister said that the IRA had said that they had given up violence in all circumstances and "I hope that is true".

Mr Adams criticised the assessment by Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister,



Adams said province "artificial entity"

that Irish unity would not come about in the next 20 years. Mr Adams said: "There are a number of models upon which ... Irish jurisdiction could be based. Sinn Fein wants to see a 32-county republic. This is also a Flannery party policy. While there may be varied views on the length of time involved, I am sure Mr Reynolds would not wish to delay such a development."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that it was realistic of Mr Reynolds to consider the timetable for a united Ireland. However, he added that equality Irish unity might not happen if the people of Northern Ireland wanted to remain in the United Kingdom.

Speaking in Londonderry, Sir Patrick also echoed Mr Reynolds's comment that the Army would not remain in Northern Ireland if the ceasefire held. He said that the Army was in the Province to support the RUC, adding: "When the RUC are able to do the policing duties without the help of the Army then I think everybody would be pleased about that."

John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, yesterday flew to Washington to brief Congress and the Clinton administration on the way ahead after the IRA ceasefire and to encourage US initiatives for investment in Northern Ireland. Today he is expected to see Vice-President Gore. Mr Hume has visited Washington regularly for about twenty years.

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Lover of mother and daughter 'killed after sex'

By MICHAEL HORNE

A MOTHER and daughter who shared the same man's bed plotted to kill him when his violent temper and sexual abuse became intolerable, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

The body of Michael White, 22, whose behaviour "was like an animal", was found in a wooden box floating in the Grand Union Canal nearly four months after he disappeared.

He had allegedly been lured to the home of Linda Bowman, 42, and her daughter Sarah, 22, where he was killed the morning after a night of champagne and three-in-a-bed sex involving the elder woman and another of his girlfriends in an hotel.

Martin Heslop, for the prosecution, told the court that before Mr White's body was found the two defendants had embarked on a campaign to make it appear that they were the victims of his disappearance.

The two women, who share a home in Thornton Heath, southeast London, denied conspiracy with others to murder Mr White between January 1 and February 2 last year and conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

On February 1 last year Mr White left the home he shared with his mother in Brixton, south London, to go to the Bowmans' house and was never seen alive again. His body had been placed in the box in the foetal position, wrapped in a sheet of polythene with two plastic shopping bags over his head, and weighted with concrete after he had been repeatedly struck over the head with a hammer. The box surfaced on the canal at Harlesden, northwest London, after it had been damaged by a boat.

Mr White met Sarah Bowman in 1986 and she became pregnant by him the following October when she was 15.



White "behaved like an animal"

giving birth to their daughter Hayley. The couple lived together but their relationship soon deteriorated and Sarah returned to her mother's house.

Mr White continued to visit and they resumed their sexual relationship. Then in 1990 he began an affair with Linda Bowman. The relationship was marked by frequent severe beatings and he occasionally also turned on her daughter.

Linda Bowman gave in to Mr White's demands for money, paying £2,500 for a Ford Orion car for him, and was eventually spending £600 a month entertaining him and his other women.

Mr Heslop said: "She became more and more desperate. She told a friend that Mr White would not leave her alone and that she was scared of him and that at one stage she would have to leave the country. She said she didn't know why she put up with it and that she would have to kill him."

On January 29 last year Mrs Bowman took Mr White to celebrate her forthcoming birthday with Leonie Finnigan, another of his girlfriends, to the King's Head, Norwood, south London, where they drank heavily.

Mrs Bowman then booked a room for all three at the Queen's Head Hotel at Crystal Palace, using a false name. There she bought two bottles of champagne before all three got involved in sex.

Later that night, when Mr White demanded more sex, Mrs Bowman refused and he beat her with his belt. Mr Heslop said: "It was this beating which we suggest was the final straw. They were driven to the desperate measure of getting rid of him once and for all by killing him."

The next morning Mrs Bowman drove Mr White and the other woman to his home, clearly showing the signs of her beating.

Mr White was lured to Mrs Bowman's home at about 9am the following Monday where, it was alleged, he was killed in the hall and disposed of in the canal.

Mrs Bowman reported Mr White missing to police three days later and a missing person's inquiry was begun. Interviews were given to the press and posters printed with the words of the two women: "We fear the worst has happened to him."

Mrs Bowman told police she "treated him like a son" and her daughter told a press conference: "I want to know where he is so I can tell my little girl what happened to her father."

After the discovery of the body on May 29 last year police found blue carpet fibres on electrical insulating tape that had been used to attach a bag around Mr White's head. A new blue carpet had been fitted in the defendants' home on January 30. It was unaccountably removed days later, never to be found, and replaced by another new carpet on February 20. Police traced the roll from which the defendants' order had been cut. Fibres from it matched those found on the insulating tape.

Ms Finnigan, 20, from Bournemouth, told the jury that she had seen both Mrs Bowman occasionally.

During their "threesome" Mrs Bowman had awoken to discover Mr White making love to Ms Finnigan and become jealous.

Ms Finnigan said: "She said she wanted to go home. He said it was too late. She got mad and started putting her clothes on. He told her to take them off and started striking her with his belt. It was only two licks. I think it left marks. She was shouting, 'I want to go home'."

The case continues.



Linda Bowman, left, and her daughter Sarah, who were simultaneously Mr White's lovers



Elizabeth Forsyth, an aide to the fugitive businessman Asil Nadir, arriving at Holborn police station yesterday to meet investigators from the Serious Fraud Office. Mrs Forsyth had voluntarily flown from the unofficial Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus four years after the SFO raided Audley Management, Mr Nadir's company, of which she was chairman (Lin Jenkins writes). She was interviewed under caution. A warrant for her arrest had not been issued.

Gerulaitis, 40, found dead in US resort

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

VITAS Gerulaitis, the American tennis star whose exuberant playing style was matched by a reckless and flamboyant life off the court, has been found dead in the exclusive American resort of Southampton on Long Island.

Despite a long and public history of drug abuse, Gerulaitis, 40, was one of the most distinctive and extrovert players on the international tennis circuit and was ranked among the world's top ten players between 1977 and 1982. His body was discovered in the bedroom of friend's home on Sunday afternoon.

Police in Southampton said preliminary investigations had revealed no suspicious circumstances but a post-mortem examination was under way yesterday to determine the cause of death.

Gerulaitis reached the peak of his career in 1977 when he beat John Lloyd in the final of the Australian Open to win his only Grand Slam title. His patchy overall record belied some sparkling individual performances: his losing but breathtaking fifth set against Bjorn Borg at Wimbledon in 1977, in particular, will be remembered as one of the most exciting tennis matches ever played.

Popular with his fellow competitors and beloved of spectators for his on-court verve, Gerulaitis never quite achieved sporting greatness, for which he blamed his addiction to drugs and high-living. Despite accumulating 27 singles titles, nine doubles titles and career earnings of almost \$3 million, Gerulaitis was never ranked higher than third in the world.

While at the top of his form, Gerulaitis admitted using cocaine, which he blamed for his inconsistent performances. In 1983 he was implicated but never charged in a cocaine dealing conspiracy.

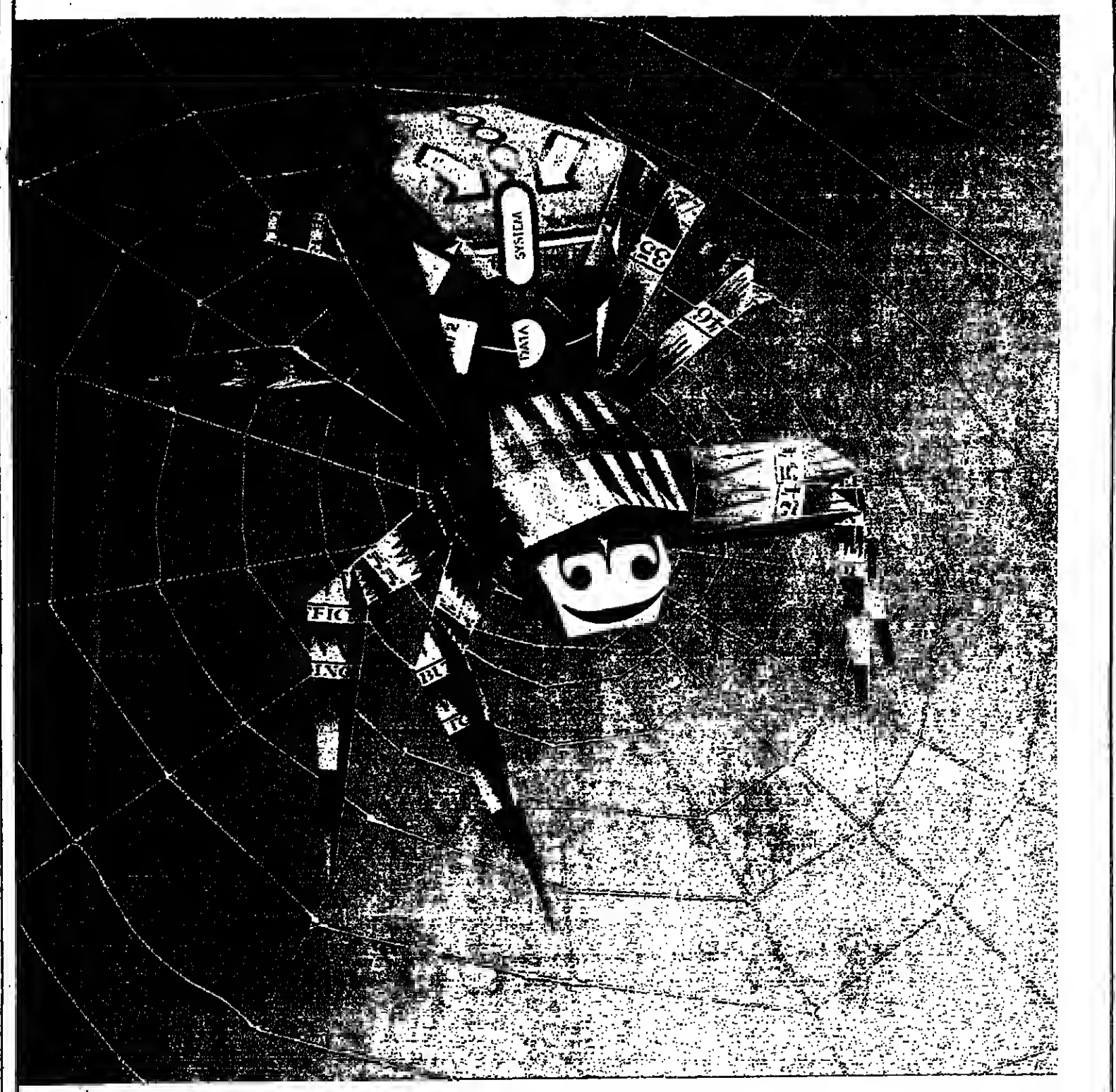
The Brooklyn-born player appeared equally at home on the court and in Manhattan nightclubs, while his late-night "jamming sessions" on stage with such contemporaries as John McEnroe compounded his reputation as a playboy sportsman.

Commenting on his friend's death after winning an exhibition match against Michael Chang in Berkeley, California, McEnroe said: "I won this match for my buddy Vitas and I'm too distraught to talk about it."

Gerulaitis left the main tennis circuit in 1985 but he continued to play regularly in exhibition matches and had a second career as a television commentator. He played his last public match on Wednesday in Seattle on the Champion's Tour for players over 35 but dropped out of the competition after complaining of back pain.

Obituary, page 21
Borg match, page 42

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Pro-caning MP's son is fined for vandalism

By JONATHAN PEYIN

THE son of Harry Greenway, the Tory MP who is an advocate of corporal punishment, was ordered to pay £525 compensation yesterday after admitting criminal damage during a late-night vandalism spree at a London railway station.

Mark Greenway, 19, admitted destroying a platform clock with a metal dust-bin, showering the platform with glass. His appearance at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court came ten days after John Major declared war on the "yob culture" urging courts to hand down tougher penalties to petty criminals.

Greenway had been drinking with a group of friends after receiving his A-level results in July. They missed the last train home from West Dulwich station in southeast London and began throwing stones.

Greenway was told by Romaine Times, the magistrate, that he had been "remarkably stupid". He was ordered to pay £525 to British Rail to repair the clock and £30 costs.

His father, who was not in court, said: "If he damaged the clock, it is only fair that he was asked to pay for its repair."

Harry Greenway, a former deputy headmaster and MP for Ealing North since 1979, has been one of the most vociferous Tory proponents of tough penalties for violent criminals. He has also consistently backed the restoration of corporal punishment in schools.

Lady Alethea had been planning to attend wedding

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

LADY Alethea Savile had been planning to attend the wedding of a former boyfriend on the day after her death, friends said yesterday.

As they discounted the likelihood of suicide, police sources indicated it was "quite possible" her death had been an accident.

Lady Alethea, 31, who had a drugs problem, was found dead on Friday at her flat in Chelsea by her brother, Viscount Pollington. She had apparently fallen and struck her head. Police are awaiting a toxicologist's report after an inconclusive post-mortem examination.

Mark Newlands, Lady Alethea's former boyfriend, married Lavina Bunn at St Peter's Church in Twickenham, West Sussex, on Saturday. A close family friend who did not wish to be named said: "At the wedding, everybody was saying 'Where's Alethea? Typical! It's so awful that she should die on the day before the wedding. It would be very unfair on Mark to read anything too deep into that.'"

After Lady Alethea's relationship with Mr Newlands ended many years ago she remained close to him and his fiancée. Later she moved in with James Glibbey, the Princess of Wales's confidant, but their romance finished after several years.

Friends blamed her depression and drug addiction for the failure of the relationship rather than rivalry with the Princess. The friend said: "She was outstanding at English and had no difficulty obtaining a place at Oxford University. Her friends assumed she would become a writer. That will be my lasting memory of her, being very clever and very funny."

Even then, the shadow of her mother's alcoholism was a burden upon her. Lady Alethea and her brother lived with their mother, Lady Elizabeth Harriot, a manic depressive whose marriage to the Earl of Mexborough had failed. "They had this wonderful, chaotic, rambling house in Cadogan Square. Her mother was this rather spooky character who drifted in and out and Alethea was really looking after the house."

At Oxford, she began abusing class A drugs. She spent much of her time in London instead of studying and left the university with only a third.

Writing was still her ambition and she contributed articles to several publications but never applied herself enough to succeed. Lady Alethea attended clinics in Britain and the United States to treat her addiction, staying free of drugs for months or years.

During the final months of her life, Lady Alethea's condition worsened. Her father cut off her allowance, possibly fearing it was being spent on drugs. She sold her story to a popular newspaper for a reputed £10,000.

Saunders case sparks attack on fraud rules

By Frances Gibb and Jonathan Prynn

THE Government faced attacks from all sides yesterday over its City regulatory regime after the European Commission ruling that Ernest Saunders, former Guinness chief, was denied a fair trial.

Sir John Nott, former Tory Trade Secretary, delivered a broadside against his former department, its ministers and lawyers, saying their behaviour was "nothing short of disgraceful".

Urging swift action to overhaul the City regulatory regime, Sir John said that the investigative methods deployed to prevent fraud had led to a two-tier system of justice, where "corners are cut and the rights of individuals accused of fraud eroded".

DTI investigators had gathered evidence and passed it directly to the Serious Fraud Office at the very time the prosecution process of Mr Saunders was going on and he was giving his evidence, Sir John said. "It is like something out of a Star Chamber."

Sir John, now a company chairman, said: "I hope this finding by the European Commission will force the Department of Trade to examine its current procedures for Board

of Trade investigations and to restore certain basic rights to people subjected to these investigations and then to criminal charge."

His comments came as the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg was forced into releasing its finding, due later this week, that the methods used to secure evidence from Mr Saunders were "oppressive" and that he was "in effect compelled to incriminate himself" during his seven-month trial.

The finding, by 14 to one, deals a blow to the powers of City investigators to obtain information under their powers to compel people to answer questions on pain of imprisonment.

The Commission said in its ruling that the material gathered from Mr Saunders was then passed to the prosecuting authorities and it formed a "not insignificant" part of the case against him at trial.

Mr Saunders, who served one third of a five-year sentence after being found guilty of false accounting and theft, hopes to see his conviction sent back to the Court of Appeal to be quashed. He could also be awarded compensation if the case goes to the European Court and it finds in his favour.

The ruling also prompted calls from Labour yesterday. Alistair Darling, the party's City spokesman, said City regulation has been reduced to a new low of "disarray and disrepute". He called for urgent action from the Government to save the reputation of the financial services industry and demanded legislation in the next Parliamentary session to overhaul the current regulatory regime "before another disaster hits us".

The Department of Trade said it was studying the Commission's ruling. It has six months to respond, but if a "friendly settlement" can be reached, then the case is likely to go to the European Court of Justice.



Peter Howson with one of his war pictures. He is disappointed at the decision by Imperial War Museum not to buy the rape scene "Croatian and Muslim".

Brutal scene by Bosnia war artist may go abroad

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

A BRUTAL but critically acclaimed painting by Britain's official Bosnian war artist, Peter Howson, may end up in an American or German museum after the Imperial War Museum rejected it.

Matthew Flowers, managing director of the Flowers East Gallery, who acts as Mr Howson's agent, said yesterday that "Croatian and Muslim", which depicts two men in fatigues raping a woman, was highly likely to end up in a collection abroad.

He said that British galleries would find it hard to afford the "modest" price of £18,000 because their budgets were so small. "Howson's paintings of this size usually sell for £25,000 to £40,000. We deliberately priced 'Croatian and Muslim' at £18,000 so that a British museum could buy it."

Mr Howson said that he was disappointed at the war museum's decision last week to select for its permanent collection six of his Bosnian works depicting ostensibly peaceful scenes, including "Cleansed", an oil depicting a group of refugees sitting peacefully on the ground. He said he was incensed at the assertion by Alan Borg, director general of the museum, that it should select only images that the artist had witnessed.

"Half the collection in the

Imperial War Museum consists of scenes not actually seen by the artist," he said. "The reason why artists are chosen to go to wars is to use their imagination, otherwise they could just send a photographer." American and German galleries had a more enlightened attitude, he added.

Mr Borg denied that there had been an attempt to sanitise the collection of Mr Howson's work. "Although 'Croatian and Muslim' is a very strong painting, it is a work that could have been produced by any artist sitting in his studio," he said.

Mr Borg said that the museum had been allowed to choose one large and two small oil paintings and three pastels from Mr Howson's war commission, which was sponsored by The Times. Jonathan Scott, chairman of the museum's artistic record committee, said: "If we had been able to keep more than one of the large paintings, we would almost certainly have picked the rape scene."

Angela Weight, the museum's keeper of art, who originally proposed that the museum keep the rape painting, said that although the works in Mr Howson's commission which had moved her were not the ones chosen by the committee, she was bound by the majority.

Leading article, page 19

Sacked Scout man seeks damages

By Frances Gibb

A SCOUT leader is to seek damages at an industrial tribunal after being dismissed from his voluntary post after a quarrel with senior officers.

The case, to be brought by Martin Johnson, 46, a former RAF officer, could be the first time that the Scouting movement is taken before an industrial tribunal accused of unfair dismissal. It will test whether scout leaders such as Mr Johnson, who are unpaid, are protected by employment law or fall outside the scope of such protection.

Mr Johnson was relieved of his post after a dispute with his senior officials over rules at a swimming gala. A committee of inquiry was set up after parents backed the Sea Scouts leader and a letter of complaint went to the Chief Scout and the Prime Minister.

The committee has now ruled that Mr Johnson, who has been in the movement for 37 years, was wrongly dismissed but he will not know until the end of the month whether he will be reinstated.

Mr Johnson, a senior manager at a Bedfordshire hospice, is pressing ahead with his industrial tribunal case but his claim would be fiercely resisted by the Scouts Association. Nigel Stevenson, secretary, said: "We do not believe he can bring such a case."

Most of the movement's 100,000 leaders were unpaid and did not have contracts of employment, he said.

Families of murder victims need help, Howard told

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

FAMILIES of murder victims need professional help to cope with the trauma, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was told yesterday when he met members of a campaign group calling for a new Charter of Rights for those whose relatives are murdered.

The meeting came amid heightened concern over the handling of the Wimbledon Common murder case, which has drawn fierce criticism from the father of Rachel Nickell, the victim. Mr Howard promised that under government sentencing plans judges would be given reports on the

effects of crime on victims before they deal with offenders. Pre-sentence reports prepared for judges would be expected to reflect the circumstances, mitigation or explanation for the actions of the offender and will also have full details of the victim. At the moment reports describe the crime but need not mention the victim.

The proposals are due to be announced by Mr Howard in a green paper before the end of this month but yesterday he outlined his ideas during a meeting with representatives of Justice for Victims, which is campaigning with Liberty for a charter of rights for the families of murder victims. The campaigners say a special support agency should

be created just to deal with the families of murder victims.

The idea of providing a more balanced picture — the crime, the offender and the victim — was one of the 27 points of action promised by Mr Howard at last year's Conservative party conference.

Mr Howard told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "We want to make sure that victims are kept informed as the criminal process goes along. We want to make sure their views are taken into account — for example in decisions on bail. I'm confident the place of the victim in our system will be increasingly recognised in the near future." A Home Office source said the new

type of report "would present a more balanced picture. A standard crime like the theft of a wallet would become more personal. There will be a difference between theft from a 21-year-old man and a little old lady who might be afraid to go out again."

The new type of report with the added "impact statement" would not require legislation. It will be discussed with the probation service, police and lawyers before being put into effect. Mr Howard also promised that all the recommendations of the royal commission on the criminal justice system for better treatment of witnesses, often including victims or their families, would be taken up. The groups want a charter to keep

victims informed of the progress of prosecutions, a system of damages rather than payments through the criminal compensation system, and legal aid.

Dawn Bromiley, whose 21-year-old daughter, was murdered by a man who escaped from prison on home leave, said the home secretary had agreed that the welfare of offenders rather than victims had been paramount for too long. "We are informed of a loved one's death and then left to get on with it," she said.

Ann Virgin, from Chingford, Essex, whose common-law husband was killed, said specialist help was needed for the families of victims rather than a volunteer system.



Saunders may get compensation

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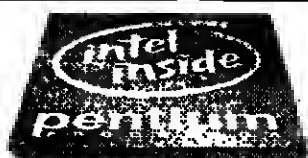
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Experts predict million young smokers will die in middle age

Success of 30-year war on tobacco grinds to a halt

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SMOKING in Britain has stopped falling and shows no sign of renewing its decline, cancer scientists said yesterday.

Issuing the grim forecast yet about the effects of the habit, experts predict that a million of today's child and teenage smokers will die in middle age and a further million in old age.

Launching the most comprehensive study of deaths from smoking across the world, Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University said that

deaths from smoking fell by a fifth in Britain in the past decade, after 30 years of topping the world league for tobacco mortality. But the sharp fall in smoking in the 1970s and 1980s has not been sustained.

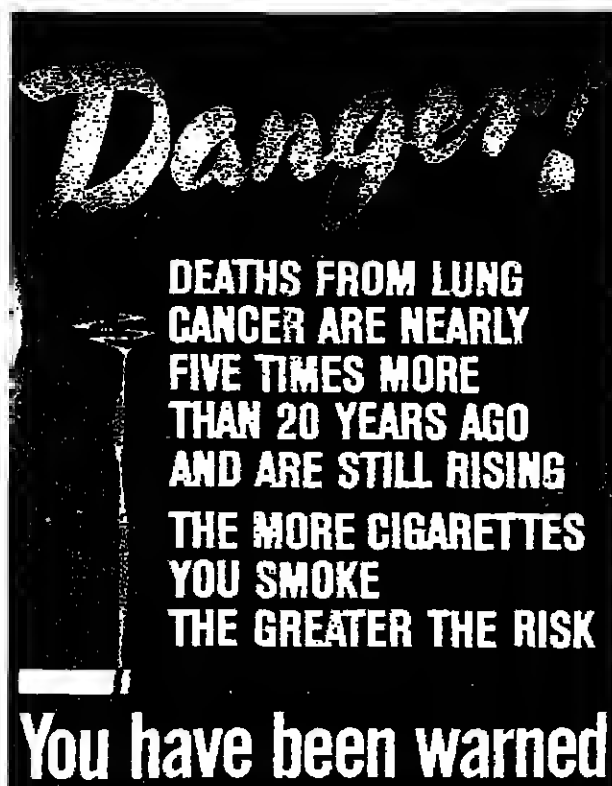
"Unfortunately the decrease in cigarette sales has pretty well ground to a halt and the proportion of teenagers who smoke is the same now as it was ten years ago," he said. "Unless fewer people start or more people stop smoking, tobacco is going to remain the

commonest cause of premature death in Britain."

The report, published by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the American Cancer Society, says that tobacco will have killed six million people in Britain and 60 million worldwide between 1950 and 2000. "On present smoking patterns, the future is going to be considerably worse than the past," Professor Peto, the report's chief author, said.

Dr Alan Lopez of WHO said that half of smokers would eventually be killed by their habit and many underestimated the risks. "Tobacco is like no other risk — it is extremely hazardous," he said. Worldwide smoking caused three million deaths a year but that figure was projected to grow to ten million a year by 2025. "The chief uncertainty is not whether but when this will occur — in the 2020s or the 2030s."

Professor Sir Richard Doll, the first scientist to discover the hazards of tobacco in 1950, attacks the Government in a foreword to the report for failing to ban tobacco advertising. "It is quite incredible that



A 1962 poster heralding the first campaign against smoking. Warnings no longer work, scientists say

they don't do that. I think it is immoral.

"Here is something that kills one sixth of the population and the Government allows advertisers to encourage people to do it."

Sir Richard says in his foreword that although the dangers of tobacco are widely known, "it is still insufficiently widely known how large these dangers are". He says that the

sharp fall in smoking in the 1970s occurred after the media took up the message of the dangers being put out by the researchers.

"That was the turning point," he writes. To reduce smoking further, as well as an advertising ban, taxation on cigarettes should be increased and smoking prohibited in public places, Sir Richard adds.

HEALTH FILE

- Worldwide somebody dies every ten seconds because they smoked, according to new report on smoking from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in Oxford, the World Health Organisation in Geneva and the American Cancer Society in Atlanta.
- About half a billion of the world's population today will eventually be killed by tobacco.
- About 250 million will still be in middle age (35-69) when killed by tobacco, losing 20 years of life.
- Most of those killed by tobacco were not particularly "heavy" smokers but most did start in teenage years.
- On average in Britain, among 1,000 20-year-olds who smoke regularly, one will die from homicide, about six will die from motor vehicles, about 250 will be killed by smoking to middle age alone, plus 250 more in old age.

Fire brigades in crisis

TWO major fire brigades are on the point of bankruptcy. They face the stark choice of either reducing fire cover below Home Office standards or spending more money than they are allowed to by the Government (Ian Murray writes).

The Mersey and South Yorkshire brigades have plundered their reserves for four years to find the money to keep their services going. Reserves are running out and by the end of the financial year both brigades expect them to be exhausted. Both say that increased pension costs are partly to

blame for the shortfall. "We are in desperate straits," Peter Dowd, chairman of the Mersey policy and resources committee, said. "We will be £3 million short by the end of the year and we have no idea where the money will come from."

Bill Wilkinson, deputy clerk of the South Yorkshire brigade, said he expected a £1.5 million overspend by the end of the financial year. "We have reduced standards below the levels the authority thinks is necessary, but we cannot cut any more without breaching Home Office requirements."

Lottery training starts

THOUSANDS of shopkeepers and petrol station assistants will start training at secret centres in the next two weeks to use the National Lottery's computer terminals (Neil Bennett writes).

As part of the final preparations for the launch of the £5.5 billion game, the lottery plans to teach 35,000 sales assistants from the 10,000 stores that will have lottery terminals. They will be shown how to enter six numbers out of 49 for each £1 ticket and ensure the numbers are sent through the lottery's secure network to one of its

main processing centres in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, or Aintree near Liverpool.

The course is being run by Peritas, a subsidiary of ICL, the computer manufacturer and one of the partners in the lottery consortium. In the next few weeks the terminals will begin to be installed in shops throughout the country although they will be hidden until the official launch. The first draw will be televised live on BBC1 on Saturday, November 19. The tickets will go on sale ten days before the first draw.

THE TIMES COUNTDOWN

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If there are no valid claims, today's prize will be added to tomorrow's money.

THE TIMES GAME
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THE TIMES

Today's Vowels
Round 1 A E I
Round 2 E O I
Round 3 I A A
Round 4 A A E A
Round 5 E I I
Target Number: 37

card there are five daily games. Each game consists of five rounds with nine spaces which include a combination of either five or six consonants which will vary from card to card.

Printed above is a selection of vowels which should be placed on to your game card in the spaces provided. Rearrange the nine letters to form five words (using as many letters as possible to form one word for each round) and write your solution in the empty boxes. Now, add up the letters. If the total equals or is greater

than the target number below you can claim. If more than one person equals or breaks today's target number, the person with the highest score wins the £500 daily prize.

To claim *The Times* prize phone our hotline on 091-514 4777 between 4pm and 8pm today. You must have your card with you. In the event of more than one valid claim, the prize will be divided equally among the winners.

For the purpose of judging, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* — New Edition for the 1990s will be the sole reference, and the rules for Countdown will apply. In all matters the Editor's decision will be final.

If your copy of *The Times* did not contain a game card, contact your newsagent or call 071-567 0404.

Countdown game devised by Armand Jammot

COUNTDOWN PRIZEWINNERS

The £500 Day Four Times game prize was shared by two winners with 39 letters each. They are: Mr John Pritchard of Rossett, Clwyd and Mr Martin Smith of Reading, Berkshire.

Mr Pritchard, who is a retired civil servant, had the following consonants on his card and by using the vowels for Day Four made the following five words.

Round 1: S P T L R (A A E A) PALAESTRA
Round 2: H G W D W F (E E) WEIGHED

Round 3: L C S C P (I O O E) PICCOLOS
Round 4: F S T D R N (A E O) NATURED
Round 5: Y D Q N T (I U I) INIQUITY

There is no winner for Day Four of the TV game. The £500 prize is carried forward so that yesterday's TV game prize was worth £1,000.

The winners will be published tomorrow.

The Times Game claims line is now open between 4pm and 8pm.

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Southerners find sanctuary in Scottish isles but wildlife could come under threat

English invaders give boost to falling island population

By IAN MURRAY

AN ENGLISH invasion of Scotland means that for the first time in decades the population of the Western Isles, Orkney and the Shetlands has begun to grow.

A study of the latest census figures by the Highlands and Islands Development Board shows that the number of English people who moved to the Hebrides in the 1980s almost equalled the number of islanders who left. In Skye the number of English nearly doubled and they make up a seventh of the population.

In the Shetlands, where the population fell by 14 per cent in the 1980s, immigrants pushed the figure up again by 1.3 per cent between 1991 and last year. In the Orkneys there has been a 1 per cent growth over the same two-year period. The migrants are not pensioners seeking a quiet retirement home but younger families looking for a new lifestyle.

Charles Smith left London 26 years ago for Wales, where he met his wife Linda and was

a sheep farmer. Six years ago the Smiths bought Papa Stronsay, the 250 acre island where Thorfinn the Mighty slew the Viking Earl Rognald in 1046.

The only other permanent residents are their daughter Kristel, 11, and about 600 sheep. Rare migrant birds, otters, eiderducks and seals are frequent visitors. Dolphins and porpoises bask in the island's harbour near the private pier.

"I am the laird here — they all call me that. You get quite upset if someone comes over and walks about without asking you. It is my kingdom," he said.

Mr Smith says he is too busy haymaking, mending drystone walls and looking after the sheep to be bored or lonely but there is still time to enjoy being an islander when the sun shines in the summer. "You just stroll round the beach, pick up a few lobsters to eat for lunch on the terrace with some home-made wine or

home brew. It's a great life." He takes Kristel to school in his fishing boat each morning. "The trip only takes ten minutes, a lot less than most people in towns need to get their children to school."

In the winter months, when gales lash the narrow strait to the island, the family usually stays in a house they own on Stronsay so they can be sure Kristel can get to school.

Mr Smith's one complaint with his island is that it is not big enough. He wants a larger farm and is reluctantly trying to sell so he can buy a 500-acre holding on Stronsay.

"There are 400 inhabitants there and it has the advantage of being a very close little community. There is no crime or violence and the only time you see a policeman is when he comes to check on someone who hasn't paid their road tax."

"All the inquiries for empty houses seem to be from people who want to escape the violence of the cities in the South," he said.



The 12 uninhabited Treshnish Isles are home to many birds, including these puffins, but their future is in doubt after the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds decided it could not afford the islands' £600,000 asking price

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stagg gets dog back after year in kennels

Colin Stagg, who last week had the charge against him of murdering Rachel Nicholl dropped, has collected his dog Brandy from kennels. The £1,442 bill for keeping the dog for a year was paid by the Metropolitan Police prisoners' property fund.

Mr Stagg did not offer a donation to the Banersua Dogs' Home charity.

Train derailed

Vandals partially derailed an empty passenger train by placing drain covers and concrete on the track in Bolton. A spokesman for Regional Railways North West said police would prosecute the case using the full force of the law.

Brewery fined

Bass Breweries was fined £50,000 at Stafford Crown Court after Simon Hawkesworth, 17, a labourer, died after falling through a skylight at its Burton on Trent headquarters. The court was told there was no handrail.

Garage attack

Two men are under police guard in hospital after being shot at a garage in Holywell, Clwyd. A bystander suffered leg injuries when he was hit by the getaway car. No attempt was made to rob the garage. A man has been arrested.

Loud car

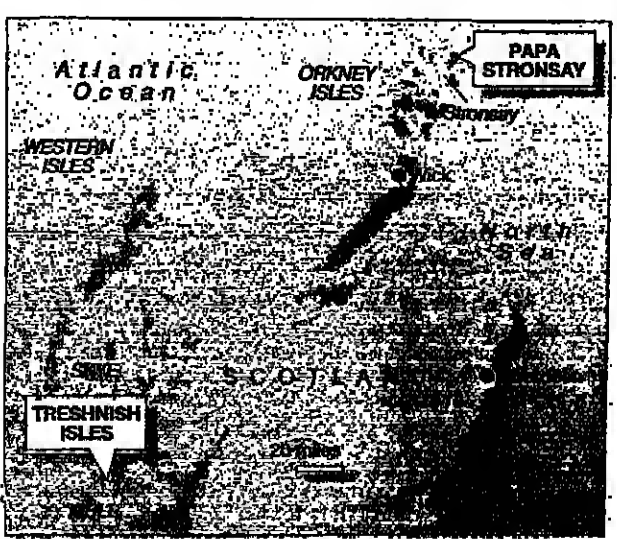
Environmental health officers in Portsmouth towed a car away after its alarm rang for more than three days. A sailor had left his car outside a friend's house while they went on holiday. The owner faces a recovery charge of up to £300.

Found car

Andrew Brunson, a motor mechanic from Quedgeley, Gloucestershire, was test driving a car when he found himself following his stolen MG Metro. A man has been charged with three driving offences.

Bird-lovers fear breeding grounds will go to uncaring buyer

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT



CONSERVATIONISTS are worried that the ultimate in romantic island retreats may be ruined if they fall into the hands of an unsympathetic owner. The Treshnish Isles, a string of a dozen uninhabited islands in the Atlantic between the islands of Mull and Tiree, are on the market for £600,000.

The islands had been part of a £1 million package including the 1,900-acre Treshnish estate on Mull but on Friday the estate was bought by a farming family associated with Mull since 1860s for more than the £400,000 asking price. The Treshnish Isles remain unsold.

Colin Strang Steel, of the Edinburgh office of Knight Frank and Rudely, which is selling the islands,

said: "They are still for sale but are not being actively marketed at present."

The islands are noted for their wildlife and are an important breeding ground for puffins, storm petrels, guillemots, shags and razorbills. They form a six-mile chain covering 320 acres and are thought to be the boundary between the northern and southern islands into which the Hebrides were divided during the reign of the Vikings. They boast a castle, a fort and the remains of a crofting village that was abandoned in the last century.

The castle on Cairn na Burgh More, one of the larger islands, was built by Norsemen but was later used by the McLean family to house

unwanted wives. It was later captured by Cromwell, who razed it.

The islands were bought by Coloeel Niall Rankin, a photographer with *The Field*, in 1938. He used them as a base for wildlife expeditions and did much to encourage the bird population, which includes golden eagles, peregrine falcons and red-tail black-throated divers. The islands are being sold by his widow's family.

David Mitchell of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the society had actively considered buying the islands but had been put off by the price.

He said: "We had valued them at closer to £80,000 but we wouldn't have been surprised if someone from the Home Counties had paid the asking

price. There is still a cache to owning a Scottish island. We are concerned about the future of the islands. There are fears about the increased shipping along the west coast and the threat of an expansion in oil exploration."

Locals are also known to be worried about the possibility of a new owner being unsympathetic to the island's heritage.

"At present the islands are balanced between threat and opportunity. There is some visitor pressure and evidence that it is doing some damage. The opportunity for the corn-crake is particularly exciting but that will not be realised unless someone takes it on as a conservation cause," Mr Mitchell said.

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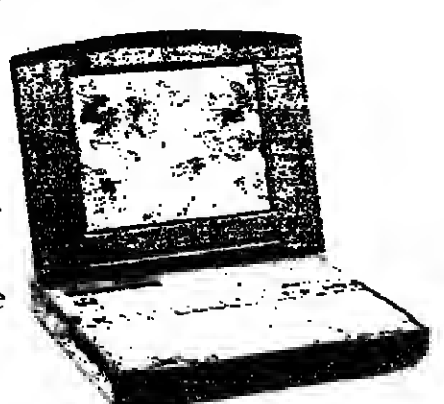
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Best-selling cars can be broken into in seconds

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the best-selling cars in Britain can be broken into within seconds in spite of high-technology locks and alarm systems, according to tests by a motoring magazine. Experts were given 50 cars to break into by *What Car?* magazine. The experts included a locksmith and worked in teams of two. They were given five minutes to break into the car without damaging it, render the alarm useless and prepare the car for being towed away in much the same way as professional thieves.

Only nine of the 50 cars

passed the five-minute test. The survey comes only days after figures showed that insurance claims for stolen vehicles fell by £35 million in the first six months of this year. The insurance industry said that the drop in claims was due to better security equipment fitted to cars.

But *What Car?* says in its October issue that motorists should not be lulled into a false sense of security, proving that most cars could be broken into by a determined thief in seconds rather than minutes. The car overcome quickest was Peugeot's 106XS 1.4i. *What Car?* said: "This car has next to nothing in terms of security. There is no alarm, the locks are flimsy plastic and central-locking is non-existent. Are you surprised we were inside in three seconds?"

The *What Car?* verdict was: "Peugeot hasn't even tried. It just doesn't seem to appreciate the level of car crime in Britain." The magazine added: "Only seven cars out of the 50 we tested kept our 'thieves' from towing them away within five minutes. A shameful 18 cars took less than two minutes to silence, enter and — an operation for which we allowed a generous minute — break the steering lock."

"In real life, many of these times would have been faster because thieves would not have flinched at causing considerable damage."

Ford, Porsche, Audi, Vauxhall and BMW were praised for raising security levels although the magazine pointed out that all had gaps in their ranges. Volvo, Toyota and Volkswagen were improving fast. Ford's best-selling Mondeo was singled out as a "hands-down winner" but its 130mph Probe coupé could be stolen in 1 minute 6 seconds.

Rover was criticised as having cars among the least protected while the magazine added: "The Japanese have found it hard to accept that, in the West, car crime is pretty much a way of life."



A SITTING room on wheels... a family demonstrating Citroën's car for the next century, a five-door hatchback with swivelling armchairs, a pushbutton gear change and dashboard dials displayed on the windscreen (Kevin Eason writes).

Tomorrow's car is a saloon ... in more than one sense

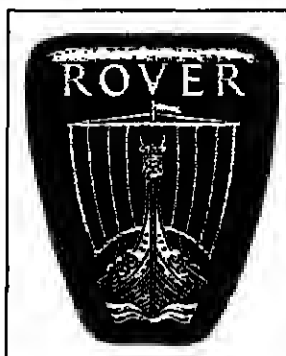
would take the company, through the millennium. They produced the Xanade with sweeping, rounded lines, large areas of glass and a computer to guide the driver away from traffic jams. The right-hand side has two

doors opening away from each other with no central door pillar. Front seats swing around to form almost a mini-room, underlining the leisure concept of the vehicle. An adventurous dashboard and steering wheel layout

includes a computer that displays maps of towns and cities throughout Europe and picks up the latest traffic information. The automatic transmission is controlled from a button on the steering wheel. There are no plans to manufacture the Xanade but Citroën says that it is close to the cars it will be making by the end of the decade.

Rover takes pole position from its BMW parent

By KEVIN EASON



ROVER is outselling its new owner, BMW, across Western Europe for the first time despite the slow recovery from recession on the Continent. Critics had scoffed at Rover's ambition to be the British equivalent of BMW, a relatively small manufacturer of renowned, high-value models. But the company is achieving remarkable growth at a rate that even BMW executives could not imagine possible when they bought Rover in March for £800 million.

In a remarkable turn around for a business that had struggled to find export customers, sales figures for the first eight months of this year show Rover outpacing its competitors in almost every market.

With a new range of cars, it has managed to increase sales in Western Europe this year

by 23.7 per cent against a growth figure for the Continent of 6 per cent. Registrations totalled 274,320 to the end of August against 251,888 last year and the 260,007 achieved by BMW.

Rovers' registrations in Germany are up 22.4 per cent to 6,565 cars this year against a market growth of 0.1 per cent. In France, sales are up 22.6 per cent to 25,226 com-

pared with the market increase of 14.2 per cent and in Italy they have increased by 38.4 per cent while overall car sales there have dropped 4.2 per cent.

A new MG sports car is due next year while Rover is already working on a replacement for its 800 series executive range to be based on the current BMW 5-series cars. The company will also launch a new luxury model to compete against Jaguar and luxury limousines made by Mercedes-Benz.

A spokeswoman for Rover said yesterday: "There is no doubt that Rover has enjoyed a boost from being associated with BMW over the past few months."

Britain is the only market in which the positions are reversed, with BMW struggling to keep up with demand and Rover's market share falling slightly.

Business blamed for accidents

By TIM JONES

BUSINESS drivers suffering from fatigue and stress are responsible for four out of ten motorway crashes, the Automobile Association said yesterday.

The figure represents a four-fold increase since 1979 and the AA blamed a more competitive economy in which staff are pushed ever harder to meet targets. According to the AA, many company representatives spend between six and eight hours a day driving.

Matthew Joint, of the AA's road safety unit, said: "Companies may meet tougher targets by pushing drivers to rush their journeys and they may save money by cutting back on overnight accommodation. But they will lose out when fatigue results in sick leave and an increased risk of accident."

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Crown contenders

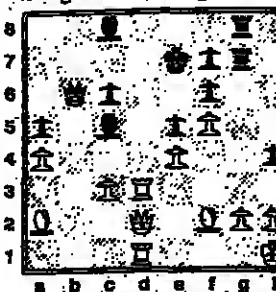
The PCA World Championship semi-final begins tomorrow in Linares, Spain. For the first time, two British Grandmasters qualified: Nigel Short faces American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky, and Michael Adams faces Viswanathan Anand, of India. This game shows how Short has defeated Kamsky.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Gata Kamsky
Tilburg 1991

Sicilian Defence

1. e4 c5
2. Nf3 e6
3. d4 exd4
4. Nc3 Qc7
5. Bc4 Qc7
6. O-O Nc6
7. Nc3 dxc3
8. e4 a5
9. f4 Nf6
10. Rf1 Nf6
11. B5 Bc5
12. Qe2 h6
13. Nc2 Bc7
14. Nc4 b5
15. Ne3 b4

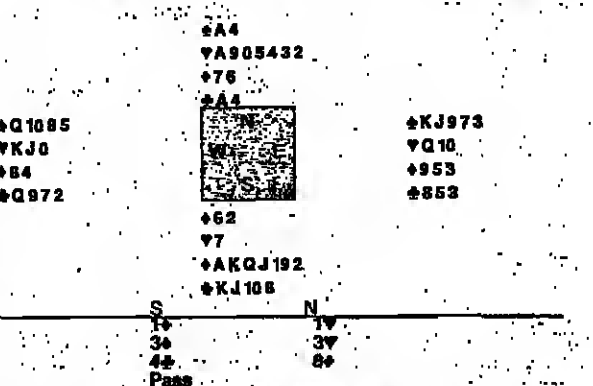
Diagram of final position



Winning move, page 48

DORMER on BRIDGE

By ALBERT DORMER, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT



South's sequence accurately describes his 6-4 pattern. North's final bid is thrustful but the contract still has fair chances. How should South plan the play? Solution: Win with the ♠A, cash the ♠A-K, and lead the ♠J. If West covers with the queen, the trick is ruffed in dummy. Trumps are then drawn and South can afford to lose a spade trick. If West does not cover the ♠J, a spade is discarded. As the cards lie, the ♠J holds the trick and South can ruff his losing spade, later conceding a club trick. Suppose next that East holds the ♠Q-x-x. East wins the trick when the jack is led, but South loses no other trick as he can ruff his losing spade. If East holds ♠Q-x-x, the contract fails, for East can return a fourth club, allowing West to ruff in front of dummy. But this is clearly the best line of play.

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Haphazard course set for journey to worst of all worlds

If the Liberal Democrats want to be taken seriously, they cannot afford any repetition of the fiasco of yesterday's "Budget Presentation" by Malcolm Bruce, the new Treasury spokesman. This was his big opportunity to show that he has fresh ideas to justify his claim that the party is "leading the economic debate". Instead, there was a mish-mash of muddle, error and banalities, with not even a hint of a coherent macro-economic framework.

His speech was full of woolly and misleading assertions. He claimed that cuts in income tax had been in part financed by "drastic spending cuts", when the opposite happened.



The sharp rise in public spending around the last election was one of the main reasons for the big jump in public borrowing. What is anyone to make of "We know the economy depends on people and must operate to serve people. Policies should be people sized, not grand complex models like monetarism, which don't work and don't serve."

To present a self-styled Budget without discussing fiscal, monetary or exchange-rate policy is rather like setting sail without a compass

or even a rudder. It is apt to result in confusion and a haphazard course. No one expects Mr Bruce to provide details — or the promised fully costed programme — two years before an election. But he should have shown some awareness of the constraints on the Budget deficit implied by his party's support for a single currency.

Most attention has been devoted to his comments about tax ahead of tomorrow's debate on the tax and benefits paper. Paddy Ashdown and Mr Bruce have stepped back from the paper's suggestion of a top marginal rate of "up to 60 per cent. But Mr Bruce added to the confusion yesterday. What will be the

balance between cutting tax rates and raising thresholds, and compensating for removing the upper limit on employees' national insurance contributions? He talked of using the proceeds from unspecified environmental taxes to reduce the tax burden elsewhere, but the party's sustainability paper said the money might be used for investment in reducing pollution and encouraging conservation.

Mr Bruce seems to have in mind a redistributive package aimed at benefiting the 25 per cent on low incomes. But the Liberal Democrats are in danger of having the worst of all worlds, raising fears about where new and increased

taxes might fall and not working out the impact on particular income groups. No wonder the Tories and Labour, let alone many Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidates, cannot understand the political naivety of those who approved the tax and benefit paper.

Mr Bruce is said by party officials to be determined to push through a radical rethinking of economic policy. But meaning well is not enough. At present he looks out of his depth. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, can also be criticised for being too vague about his plans. But he has avoided the tax trap and always appears to have a grip on economic policy issues.

In contrast to Mr Bruce, an example of how a shadow spokesman should operate was provided later by Menzies Campbell. In a confident and informed speech he argued against further cuts in the defence budget. Mr Campbell invariably sounds as if he knows what he is talking about. That is why he is so often on radio and television. Few other party spokesmen sound as authoritative. Improving the quality of Liberal Democrat MPs, and candidates in winnable seats, is essential if the party is to be a credible national force.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour gives Ashdown the cold shoulder

BY OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday snubbed Paddy Ashdown's tentative moves towards a partnership between the two parties.

After the Liberal Democrat leader indicated that he was prepared to reconsider his past neutrality towards the big two parties nearer the next election, Jack Straw, the shadow Environment Secretary, dismissed Mr Ashdown's troops as the "scavengers of British politics".

Mr Straw said on BBC radio that the Liberal Democrats would do anything to gain power and complained bitterly about their activities in some town halls.

"In some parts of the country, they are following a pretty nasty right-wing agenda. In Tower Hamlets this time last year, Paddy Ashdown was refusing to do anything about the near-racist policies followed by his colleagues in Tower Hamlets," he said.

In Walsall, Liberal Democrat councillors were poised to back Tory-inspired moves "to ban free speech and free assembly" in the town centre. "We cannot possibly do deals with the Liberal Democrats and we have no intention of doing so."

A partnership between the two parties of the kind suggested by Baroness Williams, one of the Gang of Four who founded the SDP, would be a "fraud on the electorate".

As Mr Ashdown again tried to preserve party unity by delaying consideration of links with other parties to nearer the election, the Conservatives also scorned talk of deals.

Dame Angela Rumbold said the Liberal Democrats represented the left and were effectively an adjunct of the Labour Party.

Lady Williams backtracked slightly yesterday in the internal dispute over cross-party links, saying Mr Ashdown was right to proceed cautiously until Mr Blair had shown the "shape and character" of his leadership.

But party activists continued to press Mr Ashdown to repudiate the "arrogant has-beens" from the Gang of Four. An editorial in *Liberator*, a journal for "radical liberals", said that if Lady Williams, Lord Jenkins and Lord Rodgers thought the Blair-led Labour Party was so wonderful, they should go and join it. The Liberal Democrats needed to be "against the Tories and different from Labour".

Bruce undercuts Labour and Tories with 10p tax rate

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

INCOME tax for up to 6 million low-paid workers could be cut to 10p in the pound, the Liberal Democrat leaders said yesterday as they performed a belated U-turn over economic policy.

With Labour floating the idea of reducing the basic rate of tax to 15 per cent and the Tories battling to reassert their traditional claim to be the party of low taxation, Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' new Treasury spokesman, drastically revised proposals published only weeks ago.

In a move aimed at preventing his party being saddled with a high-tax image, Mr Bruce spoke of the need for "radical cuts in taxes", ditched the plan for a "penal" top rate of 60 per cent, and put forward the idea of a starting rate of 10 per cent.

He also proposed a far-reaching restructuring of the tax system with energy and pollution taking a bigger share of the burden at present borne by income tax.

Paddy Ashdown backed his "courageous" move, saying it was "unsubstantiated to label his party the 'high-tax party' when for much of the 1980s Margaret Thatcher had a top tax rate of 60 per cent."

But Labour scorned the move as the "one of the quickest U-turns in political history" and the Conservatives said it was "a window dressing" designed to hide an assault on middle-class voters.

Speaking to reporters at the party conference in Brighton, Mr Bruce said that a shift from direct to indirect taxes



could leave even middle-income groups paying less income tax.

At the last election, the Liberal Democrats pledged an extra 1p on the basic rate of income tax to pay for higher education spending. The policy paper published by Alan Beith, the former Treasury spokesman, which will be debated by delegates tomorrow, pursued this approach, proposing a top tax rate of 60 per cent for the 95,000 people earning over £100,000 and limited help for the low-paid.

But yesterday, Mr Bruce backtracked, highlighting his 10p proposal and saying he personally believed that a top rate of 50 per cent was high



Bruce: belated U-turn over economic policy

enough. He also opened bidding in the pocket-book auction under way for the voters of Middle England, who have been reassured by Tony Blair's remark that he thinks they are paying enough taxes.

"Who is going to get middle-income voters? We think we can take them on board with an honest debate that says we are sensitive to your needs to pay your taxes within reasonable bands. But at the same time, we also recognise you need consistency, stability and decent investment in public services because most of these people do not buy private education and health because they cannot afford it."

"We are proposing to introduce environmental taxes. A number of these taxes will create significant revenue opportunities, which can be applied to lower the tax burden on the low income groups and to some extent to protect the tax rates for middle groups."

"It does not follow that in income tax terms the people on middle incomes will pay more. It is even possible they may pay less."

Alistair Darling, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said: "Liberal Democrat tax plans are in disarray. They are desperately trying to be different as Labour has captured so much of their ground."

Mr Bruce confirmed that the Liberal Democrats would raise the £23,000 ceiling on national insurance contributions. This would mean the better-off paying a 9 per cent levy on all earnings above this sum. But the policy document proposes to offset the impact of such a change by introducing a new tax band for people earning about £32,000 a year. Their new marginal tax rate would be lower than the present 40 per cent.



Alex Wilcock: "The leaders don't want a republic because they've mixed with the Establishment and been corrupted"

Party urged to roll up and rave

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

ALEX Wilcock, one of the young firebrands of the Liberal Democrats, will cause party elders acute embarrassment today. Late this afternoon, he will go to the rostrum and commit the ultimate in *lèse-majesté* by proposing that Prince Charles should never play the king.

Most youth wings delight in rocking the political boat, but the Liberal Democrats Youth and Students wing is excelling itself at Brighton this year. Not only does Mr Wilcock, the group's chairman, want to scrap the Queen and turn the corgis out of Buckingham Palace, he also wants Paddy Ashdown to roll his own joints and give his backing to rave parties.

Mr Ashdown has so far gritted his teeth and put it all down to natural exuberance. Mr Wilcock, 22, a politics student from Essex University, remains unabashed. "I am the only member on

the party's policy committee who is brave enough to say that getting rid of the monarchy should be part of our package on constitutional reform like proportional representation."

"I don't think the Queen should be forced into a council house, but her children would enjoy having jobs. We wouldn't be so obsessed by Prince Charles's bedroom frolics and Princess Anne could even run for President. The only reason the party leaders don't want a republic is because they have mixed with the Establishment and have been corrupted with gifts of titles and garden parties."

Mr Wilcock is a typical example of the Liberal youth species. Dressed in jeans jacket and sloganed T-shirt and festooned in bracelets, necklaces, badges and an AIDS ribbon, he wanders around clutching a beige ethnic duffle bag that

matches his unwashed hair. He refuses to drive a car, is semi-vegetarian and drinks pints of lemonade.

He joined the party at 16 in 1987 after winning a mock election for the Liberals at his school in Haslemere. He warned Mr Ashdown that his nursery-mates will not tolerate any cosying up to the Labour Party. "Tony Blair is a vacillating fool and is irrelevant to our aims," he said.

"People want quality of life. Our members are strong environmentalists and strongly in favour of freedom, which does mean giving teenagers the right to have contraceptives and letting people smoke soft drugs."

Whatever happens in the debate on turning Britain into a republic, Mr Ashdown may be relieved to know that Mr Wilcock has no plans to become an MP. "Then I would have to keep my mouth shut and toe the party line," he said.

Activists take hard line on privatisation

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday aired their hostility to the Government's privatisation programme by condemning plans to sell off the Post Office and demanding tighter regulation of water companies.

The party leadership only narrowly beat off grassroots demands for the renationalisation of water at an estimated cost of £10 billion. Instead, the conference voted for stricter regulation of water prices to curb excessive profits, punitive taxation of profits from the encroachment of directors' share options and legislation to make it illegal to cut off the water supply to customers.

In the Post Office debate,

activists stopped short of demanding no change in the face of new commercial pressures and fierce competition. They backed a motion supporting greater commercialisation by giving the Royal Mail access to private sector capital to fund new ventures.

The motion criticised the Government's sell-off proposals as "another example of Tory obsession with imposing an ideological straitjacket on unfettered free-market economics on a viable and efficient public concern."

Nick Harvey, a trade and industry spokesman and MP for North Devon, said the Government needed the cash from its planned "sordid to the

pawnbrokers" to make up for up for its mismanagement of the economy. "So long as the Government intends to privatise the Royal Mail and separate it from the Post Office, we cannot believe assurances about the future of either."

Ramesh Dewan, from Hertsford, said that a sell-off would lead to the closure of rural sub-post offices, bringing ruin to many Asian families that ran them.

In the water debate, Matthew Taylor, the environment spokesman, whose Truro constituency has seen some of the highest increases to pay for cleaning up West Country beaches, pleaded with delegates not to vote for a return to

public ownership. "Renationalisation is the wrong answer because it will cost around £10 billion. That is five times what the Liberal Democrats promised to invest in education at the last election."

Mr Taylor urged delegates not to give ammunition to the opposition parties by expensive spending pledges. "If £10 billion is available, let's spend it on our children, our health services, on housing the homeless and giving jobs to the jobless," he said.

Speakers at the conference were vitriolic in their attacks against the big pay awards to company directors and the large hikes of an average 67 per cent in water costs since

privatisation. Nigel Priestley, prospective parliamentary candidate for Colne Valley, likened water privatisation to the creation of a Frankenstein's monster and said the chairman of North West Water would earn £926 for a day's work today.

The conference also moved to underpin rural support for the Liberal Democrats by approving a policy paper calling for greater use of tourism and cottage industries as a partial replacement for the declining agricultural sector.

The party approved a revised form of the Common Agricultural Policy in which farming would not be the only source of revenue.

Defence cuts call rejected

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrat leadership yesterday fought off renewed calls by party activists for a policy of scrapping the nuclear defence programme and cutting defence spending.

Menzies Campbell, the defence spokesman, issued a firm warning to the conference that the party had to be realistic in setting defence spending targets. He admitted that previous party forecasts that the defence budget could be halved by 2000 were no longer feasible, insisting that increasing fears about the instability of Eastern Europe required present spending levels to be maintained. European countries might indeed

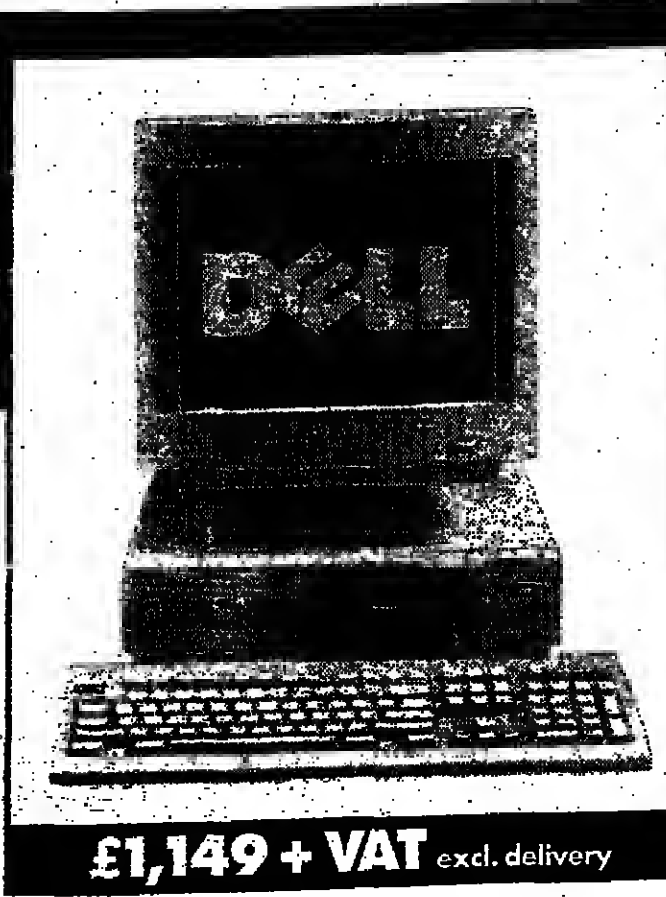
have to increase defence expenditure, he said.

He told the conference that Britain had to retain its present commitments, and argued that spending cuts would hit defence establishments in some of the party's strongholds in southwest England.

Although Mr Campbell persuaded the conference to reject calls for defence cuts, a series of speakers pressed the leadership to reconsider its policy. Margaret Sharp, from Guildford, said: "We can't afford to go on spending on defence at current levels. We should be aiming to get down in proportional terms to the same point as our European partners."

Supporters of unilateral nuclear disarmament were less conspicuous than at previous conferences, but several speakers demanded that the party withdraw its support from the Trident nuclear submarine programme. Jake Jacobs led criticism of the party's document on defence policy. "I know of no paper in more danger of bringing this party into disrepute," he said, adding that it contained little to distinguish the party from its opponents.

The conference defeated all efforts to water down the document, which calls for a reformed United Nations, stricter controls on arms sales and retention of Britain's minimum nuclear deterrent.



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Pressure on peacekeepers as Sarajevo clashes escalate

Rose threatens new airstrikes

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VITEZ

IN THE worst escalation of fighting in Sarajevo since the United Nations' imposition of a heavy weapons exclusion zone around the capital in February, Bosnian troops fired several hundred mortar rounds at Serb forces to the northeast of the city late on Sunday afternoon, prompting Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, to threaten both sides with airstrikes.

French UN troops at a weapons collection point three miles north of the city centre were temporarily taken hostage during the Serbs' retaliatory action, in which they seized three heavy mortars which they fired into the city, killing two people. At least 18 others, most of them civilians, were wounded in the exchanges.

Accusing the Sarajevo government of a provocative action "incomprehensible to the civilised mind", General Rose said: "I told the government: 'If you don't stop it immediately we will be using air power against you.'" He later confirmed that he had "already been in consultation with Nato

on the targets". General Rose's criticism brought a promise from President Izetbegovic of Bosnia to halt provocative attacks on Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo.

The city yesterday endured its sixth consecutive day without water, electricity or gas due to Serb actions. A gun battle in the suburb of Dobrinja left two Bosnian and two Serb soldiers dead.

There is growing controversy over the subsequent actions of both the Bosnian and Serb

forces, and particularly the UN's reaction to it. A Bosnian attack supported by between 350 and 400 82mm mortar rounds went some way to seizing a Serb-held stretch of road held that links the suburb of Vogosca with the Bosnian Serbs' self-styled capital at Pale. These were fired from four locations within the city and were monitored by UN troops.

Appearing to lose some ground, the Serbs then fired back using heavier 120mm

mortars they seized from the UN weapons collection point at Poljine to the north, having first blockaded the French UN troops in their command post with mines. The use of both types of mortar is clearly forbidden under the terms of the exclusion-zone agreement. The Serb targets included the UN headquarters in Sarajevo and the presidential building, and though they fired only 12 mortar rounds, these seem to have caused the bulk of the casualties. A Dan-

ish nurse in the UN headquarters was also slightly wounded by the accompanying small arms fire.

The UN immediately contacted the Bosnian command, requesting that they halt their offensive actions, while asking the Serbs to release the French troops at Poljine and encouraging them not to respond to the Bosnian provocation.

General Rose has been under increasing pressure from both Nato and the Americans to take a stronger stance against the Serbs, and to upgrade the strength of the UN forces' reactions to Serb fire.

In common with Yasushi Akashi, the UN special representative, he is reluctant to do this for fear of crossing the so-called "Mogadishu line" and have UN troops directly embroiled in the fighting.

At an airport meeting yesterday with UN commanders, both the Bosnians and Serbs agreed "in principle" to halt their attacks and allow for a UN inspection of the scene of the fighting with a view to the "possible establishment" of another UN observation post.



Friends of Samir Kajo, 13, killed by a sniper, pray at his funeral in Sarajevo yesterday.

Yugoslav military 'close to bankruptcy'

YUGOSLAVIA'S military is almost bankrupt, its officers are leaving in large numbers and its planes are crashing more frequently because there is not enough money to keep them airworthy (The Jewish writes). Dissatisfaction has been increasing for years but for the first time the military hierarchy is publicly demanding more money, warning that its officers will no longer be able to feed their families.

An editorial in *Vojvika*, the army magazine, points out that policemen are paid a third more than soldiers. An article in *Argument*, the Belgrade weekly, by Miroslav Lazanski, a leading military commentator, also details

the humiliations now being faced by the military. "Tank experts are going to Botswana to sell fridges and air-conditioning units," he says. "The world expert on composite rocket fuels, who could not live on a monthly salary of £104, left the army and started a chicken farm."

Helicopter pilots have resigned to work in the North Sea, where they can earn £3,870 a month instead of £190, he says, adding that air force pilots are now working "in the private flying schools of Texas ranchers".

Mr Lazanski also points out that "patriotism and talking about the shining traditions of the Serbian and Montenegrin armies are not enough to stop a further brain drain".

UN is likely to ease sanctions on Serbia

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations Security Council yesterday opened the debate on easing international sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

It is expected to give the green light to reopening Belgrade airport to foreign flights and to suspending sanctions on sporting and cultural contacts. The relaxation will depend on an expected favourable report from international monitors who have been sent to confirm that Serbia's blockade of the Bosnian Serbs is genuine.

A full UN embargo of the rump Yugoslavia was imposed 28 months ago because

of Serbia's involvement in the Bosnian war. However, despite vigorous efforts by the authorities to paint the latest moves as a diplomatic triumph, the prospect of the easing of sanctions has done little to lift the prevailing despondency in Serbia, although the pro-government media has been proclaiming the end of the country's international isolation.

Even after the sanctions currently under discussion have been eased the country will still labour under a total trade and oil embargo and its economy will remain in dire straits.

Fairytale ending eludes Prague's king of the castle

IN Prague's Wenceslas Square, where five years ago in November students and police clashed in the last, brutal battle of the doomed order, today's voices merge in a cacophonous Eurobeat. The restaurant menus are printed in English and German, with Czech relegated inside. Wares of offer range from fast food to marijuana and escort girls.

The once eerie boulevard, with grubby neon signs advertising the limited travel routes of Eastern European airlines, has been transformed into a trashier version of Oxford Street. This is a city with the frenetic energy of Paris in the late Sixties or West Berlin in the early Eighties. Mappin & Webb, the up-market London jeweller, has just set up shop.

The election of Vaclav Havel, the dissident playwright, as President of what was then Czechoslovakia marked a fairytale ending to the country's miserable years under the Soviet yoke. With former communists back at the helm across the old eastern bloc, it seemed then to be the one country where the drama of 1989 had a moral, rather than a merely pragmatic ending.

For the paragon of dissident virtue, however, the times have soured. "The Castle", as both his residence and administrative offices are known, may dominate the skyline and draw the tourists to photograph its designer-clad guards, but its inhabitant is a lonely man. His cortege from the years in the underground movement was ousted from power when Vaclav Klaus and his Civic Democratic Party swept to power in 1992 in an alliance of economic rightwingers and Christian Democrats.

Nowadays it is Prime Minister Klaus, with his austere, economic policies and technocrat allies in the industrial sector, who is the de facto leader in the country. He draws scorn from President Havel, who prefers a more moderate approach to reform and remains concerned about the socially divisive effects of rapid change.

Mr Klaus profited, firstly, from the splintering in 1992 of Civic Forum which, in

Five years after the fall of communism, Anne McElvoy takes a look at Czechoslovakia

campaign with other dissident movements in the bloc, was united by what it opposed rather than what it supported, and, secondly, from the Czech-Slovak split at the beginning of last year.

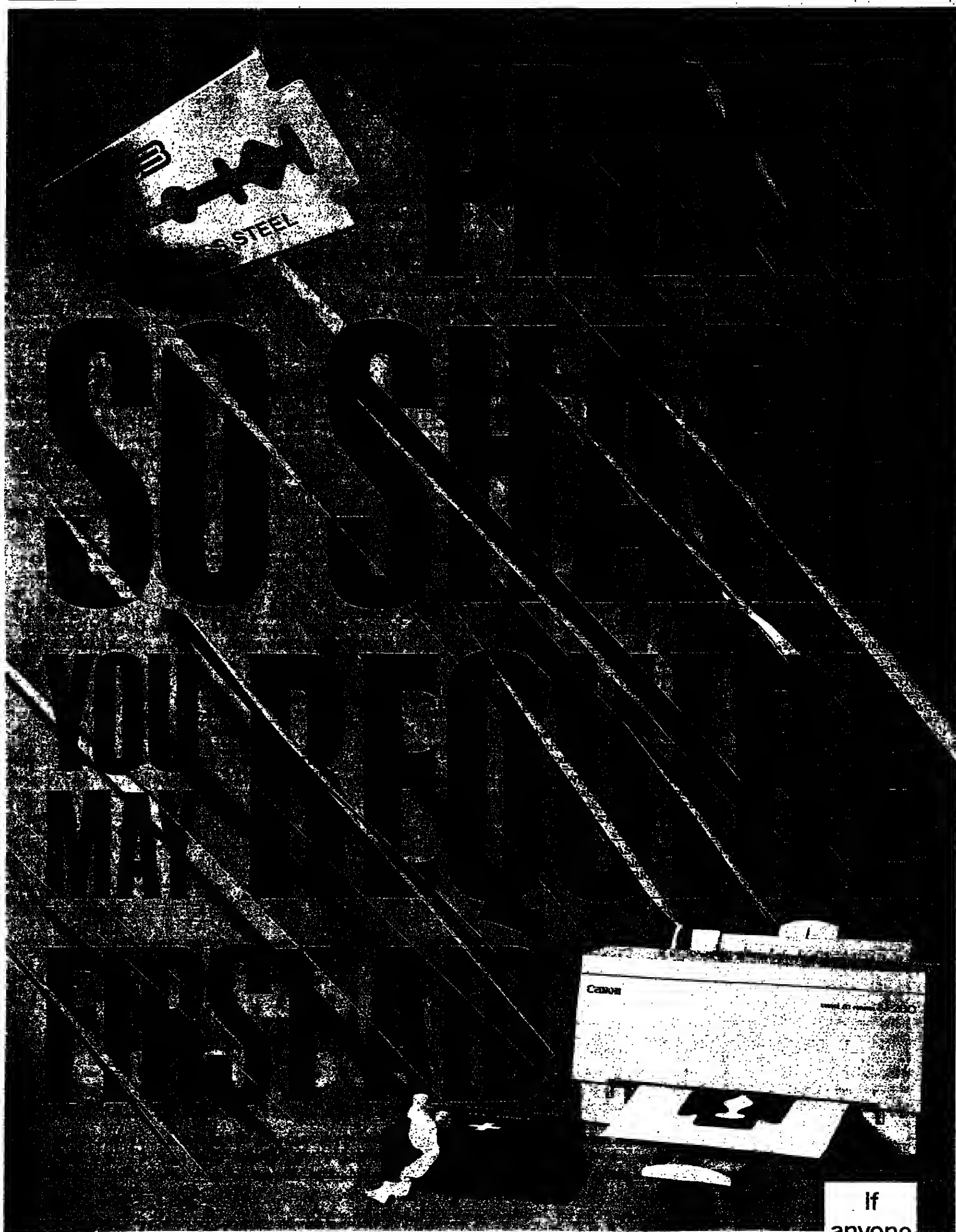
Whereas President Havel would have preferred to have prevented the break-up of Czechoslovakia and had to fight to hang on to his post in its wake, Mr Klaus was quick to seize on the task of overseeing the separation as a means of consolidating his grip on policy making.

Gossip is rife in Prague about the worsening relations between the two men. They rarely meet, and Mr Havel is presently engaged in a campaign to wrest back influence.

Liberals fear that the country's prewar history, which saw the political party machinery overshadowing democratic processes, may recur, given Mr Klaus's attachment to the clique of industrial managers and his hostility to press criticism. This month, the editor of the conservative *Deni* newspaper was sacked, allegedly at Mr Klaus's instigation, after the paper had questioned the involvement of former KGB and SIB or secret police agents in the privatisation of the oil industry.

The President's friends remain fiercely loyal to him. A professor of political studies at Charles University, who is still a close friend, said: "He is fighting back, determined to defend the achievements of 1989 and his vision of a civil society."

But Mr Havel's soft admonitions go unheard in the noisy city below. As dusk falls, its stark grandeur reminds one of Hilaire Belloc's view of "an immense, unbroken, sheer, blank wall". Behind it lives a man struggling through the grey days, weighing triumph against disappointment.



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Kohl buoyed by economic upturn before election

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the German Chancellor, was given an electoral boost yesterday with figures and forecasts suggesting that the economy is about to make a strong recovery. One report, compiled by a Frankfurt-based consultancy, questioned 11,000 senior managers about their profit and turnover expectations and came up with "the best results for five years".

Similar conclusions were reached by the Munich-based IFO Institute, which indicated that companies expected a 2.75 per cent increase in production this year and a 3.5 per cent rise next year. When asked in the spring for their estimates, the companies expected a 1.2 per cent increase this year and 2.5 per cent next.

Herr Kohl's Christian Democrat Party has been quick to exploit the change of mood. Yesterday it ordered posters

depicting Herr Kohl as the natural pilot of a booming German economy. The raw figures certainly indicate that the economy is genuinely on the road to recovery rather than just being talked up by the politicians.

Inflation has slowed to an annual rate of about 2.5 per cent. Moreover, inflation in eastern Germany is only marginally higher — a sign that the East is dragging itself out of the doldrums. Production levels are high in the East thanks not only to construction but also to manufacturing industry. Eastern German factories have recovered from the dramatic plunge of 1990-1992 and have returned to the buoyant level that was recorded in the early months after monetary union with West Germany. Order books are filling quickly in East and West. Wage increases came

down from about 5.5 per cent in 1992 and 4 per cent last year to 2 per cent this year. Industry is thus displaying the pattern of previous economic upswings.

The question is whether Herr Kohl's assumption that economic recovery will carry him back to power on October 16 still holds good. The conventional wisdom is being challenged in the United States and Britain.

The American recovery, for example, has entered its fourth year. Growth is expected to be a strong 4 per cent this year, annual inflation is a mere 3 per cent, yet President Clinton's popularity ratings (at least before the Haiti breakthrough) are low. The British Government, too, is confronting a similar psychological gap, with the economy growing well and the Prime Minister's ratings falling.

The Chancellor has two political problems stemming from the economy. The first is that the better results have pushed to one side his earlier commitment to modernise and deregulate the economy. When the economy was looking particularly bleak a year ago, the air was thick with calls for self-sacrifice, for flexible and part-time working schemes and for longer shopping hours. Now such appeals are unpopular and the Chancellor — unlike Günter Rexrodt, his Free Democrat Economics Minister — has fallen silent on the subject.

The second element of the economic recovery is that it is making little impact on the basic level of unemployment. The latest figures indicate that the number of jobless is dropping slightly, but the annual unemployment level is likely to stay at about 3.8 million this year and next. The fear of unemployment has become a potent political factor and is the single biggest contributory element in the success of the former communist party.



Salvatore Riina, the Mafia leader, who yesterday went on trial in Sicily with 36 other mobsters for the 1992 murder of Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia judge

Opéra drama reaches last act

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

SECURITY of a kind usually reserved for rock concerts or football matches was in force at the Paris Opéra last night ready for possible action against fans aggrieved by the sacking of Myung Whun Chung, its popular musical director.

Supporters and orchestra members were said to be plotting a show of support for

Mr Chung during the opening night of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, which he has been allowed to conduct as his swansong at the troubled theatre.

The ten performances he is conducting were negotiated by order of a judge. They will theoretically bring down the curtain on the tragicomedy that has pined the musical director against Hugues Gall, the administrator.

The bitterness generated by a public feud is, however, likely to poison the atmosphere of the saddest victory in the theatre on the stage de

Sweden's move to left upsets markets

FROM NICHOLAS GEORGE IN STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN'S Social Democrats seem about to form a minority government with the financial markets already fearing that they will be unable to introduce the austerity measures needed to ease the country's economic woes.

Headed by Ingvar Carlsson, 59, the former Prime Minister, the party took 45.6 per cent of the vote in the general election on Sunday, with the electorate moving left, firmly rejecting the Conservative-led coalition government of Carl Bildt. But under the system of proportional representation, the Social Democrats fell 13 seats short of an absolute majority.

Mr Bildt's government has presided over the worst recession in Sweden since the 1930s, with unemployment at 14 per cent, high interest rates and a weak currency. Voters appear to have yearned for the security of past affluence and are keen to protect the welfare state that the Social Democrats designed while in power for more than 50 of the past 60 years.

The business sector had hoped that the party would form a coalition with the small Liberal Party. That seems unlikely because of the Liberals' poor showing at the polls.

Mr Carlsson has also effectively ruled out a coalition government with the former Communists, now known as the Left Party, and the Greens. Both parties campaigned against Swedish membership of the European Union and cuts in welfare spending. They now control 40 seats between them.

Instead, the Social Democrats look determined to form a minority government gaining support from Left or Right issue by issue. Mr Carlsson has emphasised his intention to cut the budget deficit which now runs at 13 per cent of GDP. During the campaign the party unveiled a package of tax increases and spending cuts. However, even proposals for small savings in child benefits, housing aid and other social services have provoked the party's traditional supporters to move to the left and challenge the party's policies.

Blast kills top officer in Athens

ATHENS: Constantine Mitsotakis, the former Greek Prime Minister, yesterday accused the Socialist government of being soft on terrorism after a senior police officer was killed in an explosion as he boarded a police bus (Malcolm Brabant writes). The left-wing group November 17 claimed responsibility for the blast, in which two other police officers were seriously injured.

The first legislative act of Andreas Papandreu, the Socialist Prime Minister, was to repeal what he regarded as the undemocratic anti-terrorism law introduced by Mr Mitsotakis after his son in law was shot dead by November 17 in 1989. The law banned newspapers from publishing the statements of terrorist organisations.

Zulu talks

Ulundi: President Mandela met King Goodwill Zwelithini and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, to discuss the future role of the Zulu monarchy.

Volcano fear

Port Moresby: Papua New Guinea declared an emergency around the northeastern port town of Rabaul after 30,000 people fled erupting volcanoes and earth tremors on New Britain. (Reuters)

Cane withheld

Singapore: Five foreign youths, including two Britons and an American who were arrested for stealing car emblems, will not be cased as the case has been classified as theft. (Reuters)

Cholera strikes

Tirana: Poverty-stricken Albania has been hit by its first cholera epidemic since 1927. About 160 suspected cases are being treated, 40 of them in the isolation wing of Tirana military hospital.

Panda progeny

Beijing: Qianqian, 18, the panda who served as a mascot when China hosted the Asian Games four years ago, gave birth to a cub weighing 5.5 ounces. (AP)

Loren retains allure at 60

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIANS paid tribute to Sophia Loren's ageless beauty as the screen goddess prepared to pass her 60th birthday without fanfare today, saying "maybe I'm just a little housewife".

"She is a star who has no age," *La Repubblica* mused. *Il Messaggero* said: "The grande dame of international cinema still has something adolescent about her."

Loren said she would probably spend the day "wandering the streets of my



Loren: "I'm just a little housewife"

youth". She added: "I believe in marriage, work, children, fidelity and in my roots — maybe that means I'm just a little housewife."

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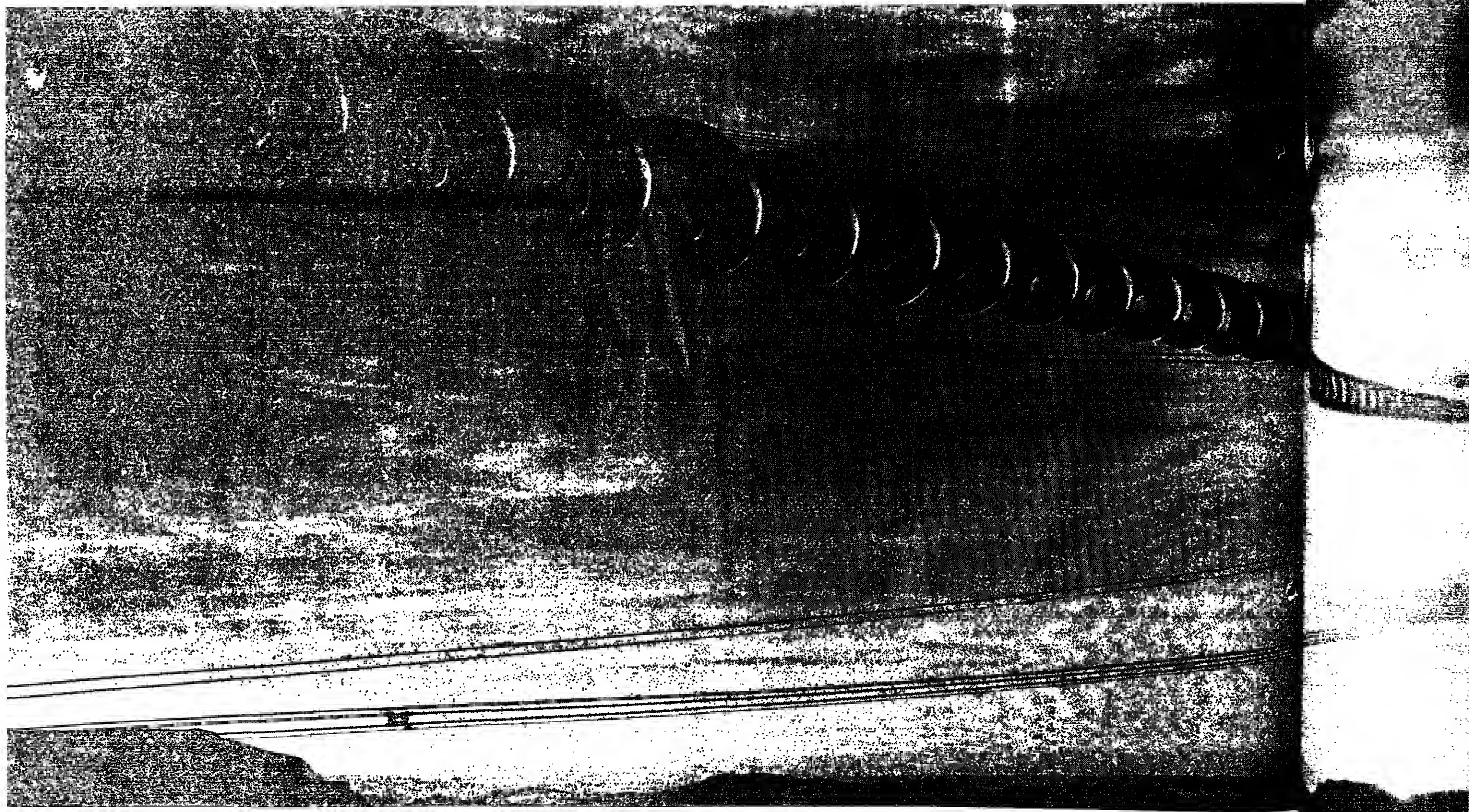
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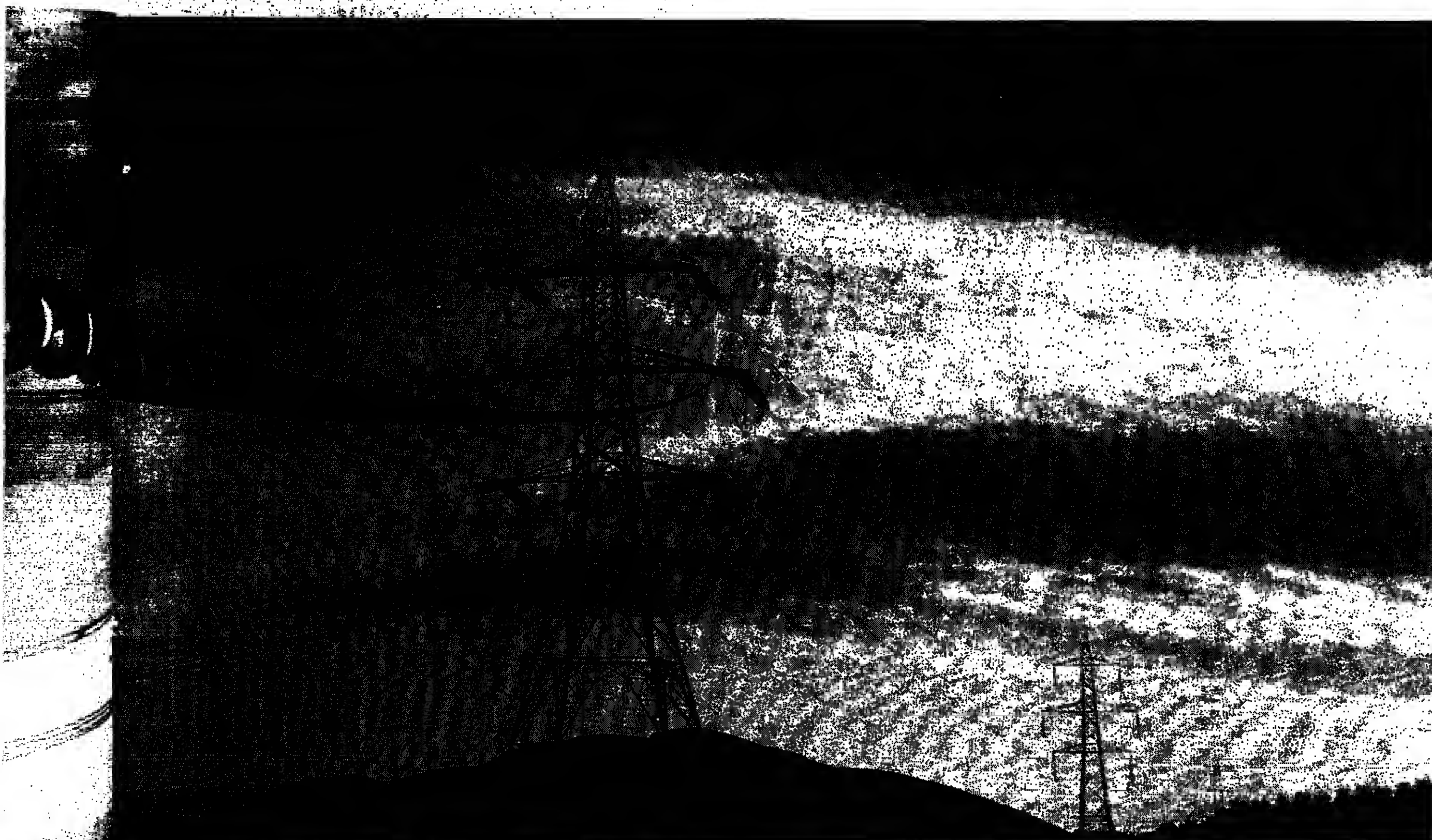
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Jubilant White House calls for pizza after show of force drives junta from power

Secret call to colonel pulled Haiti from brink of invasion

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton's roller-coaster presidency has been filled with cliffhangers, but for sheer drama none matched Sunday night's last-gasp deal aborting a full-scale US invasion of Haiti.

The denouement began at 6.00pm when Philippe Biamby, the Haitian army Chief of Staff, burst into the room at Haiti's military headquarters where after 11 hours of talks Jimmy Carter, the former President, had almost clinched the agreement of Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras, the junta's leader, to stand down.

Colonel Biamby was clutching a cellular telephone. "They're coming," he declared. Sixty-one US planes packed with paratroopers had taken off from US bases and were heading for Haiti. "We must immediately break off these talks and march our forces," he announced.

In desperation Mr Carter persuaded General Cédras to accompany him to the National Palace to see Emile Jonassaint, Haiti's 81-year-old army-installed President. Mr Jonassaint summoned his de facto Cabinet to hear the terms of the agreement. Almost every minister rejected it, but Mr Jonassaint overruled them. "We'll have peace, no war," he announced, and the deal was done.

Mr Carter flashed the news to the Oval Office where Mr Clinton had spent the day huddled with his closest aides

in an agony of suspense, privately urging Mr Carter to get out before the invasion began. A copy of the agreement was faxed to the White House and minutely scrutinised. At 7.45pm Mr Clinton assented. The planes were turned back 75 minutes into their flight. The formidable US armada assembled off Haiti's coast was stood down. The Oval Office erupted in celebration and pizza was ordered as America's vastly relieved President prepared to address the nation.

Mr Carter's delegation had reached Port-au-Prince on a government plane on Saturday morning. He had earlier established a rapport with General Cédras when he monitored Haiti's first free elections in 1990. General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was greatly admired by the Haitian junta as a fellow black who had risen to the very top of the US military. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was to convince the junta that Mr Clinton really would invade regardless of congressional opposition.

Mr Carter said the turning point came early on Sunday morning when the US delegation visited General Cédras at his house and met his wife — "one of the strongest and most powerful women I've ever met". She was adamantly opposed to any deal but General Powell emphasised that



The buck stops here: the Oval Office in ferment on Sunday, hours before the invasion was aborted. Once again, the famous room and its desk were the focus of a world drama, a place where anxious figures met to make life-or-death decisions (Ian Brodie writes).

Clinton's night of drama in the Oval Office

policy advisers and talked by telephone with Jimmy Carter, who was in Port-au-Prince negotiating the removal of Haiti's junta and the peaceful restoration of the ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The scene appears familiar

because it is reminiscent of other Presidents at critical moments of history: Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis, Johnson and the Vietnam Tet offensive. Mr Carter himself during the failed rescue mission for American hostages in

Iran, and George Bush orchestrating the Gulf War's final hours. Mr Clinton's advisers on Sunday, from left to right, were: William Perry, Defence Secretary; General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff;

David Gergen, senior adviser for foreign policy; Al Gore, the vice-President (still on crutches after rupturing an achilles tendon); Warren Christopher, Secretary of State; Leon Panetta, White House Chief of Staff; Strobe Talbott, deputy Secretary of State, and the President. The picture was released by the White House.

COUNTDOWN TO PEACE

the tiny Haitian army stood no chance. Mr Carter said the junta's leaders and their families would be hurt and the Haitian army destroyed. The choice was to leave with dignity or fight and be humiliated. Gradually they brought her round and General Cédras, previously adamant that he would not resign, began to relent.

The talks resumed at the military headquarters. The Carter delegation missed its noon deadline for pulling out. At 2.00pm John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, turned to Mr Clinton and asked if the invasion was to take place that night. "Pack 'em," the President replied.

Twice during the afternoon Mr Carter, the ultimate peace-maker, persuaded the reluctant President to give him more time. In the White House the tension became so great that Anthony Lake, the President's National Security Adviser, and Bill Gray, his special envoy to Haiti, both developed agonising toothaches.

Then came Colonel Biamby's dramatic entry. US television networks knew the planes had taken off but had promised the Pentagon not to broadcast the fact. The identity of Mr Biamby's informant remains a mystery. The Administration denied that it told him Mr Carter believed it was a Haitian-American working for the US military. Whoever it was, their timely call averted the invasion.

At midnight, as the first paratroopers would have been landing and special operations forces storming ashore, Mr Jonassaint broadcast his own address to the nation. A US force had been on its way to "wipe us out," he said. "After thinking it over, with the help of the High Command, I thought no, we couldn't let the annihilation of Haiti happen without reason."

Leading article, page 19

'Flawed' agreement tempers Washington's sense of relief

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

WHITE House officials moved swiftly yesterday to rally support for Sunday night's dramatic eleventh-hour agreement with Haiti's military regime. While there was widespread relief in Washington that an invasion had been averted, there was considerable scepticism about the terms of the deal.

President Aristide, Haiti's exiled leader, said nothing personally, but Michael Barnes, his lawyer, called it a "highly imperfect agreement". Randall Robinson, the black civil rights activist whose hunger strike had nudged Mr Clinton towards military intervention, said it was "terribly flawed". Congressional Democrats mostly supported the deal but many Republicans were openly critical.

The agreement's shortcomings are obvious. Firstly, it does not immediately remove Haiti's ruling military junta from power as Mr Clinton had previously insisted. Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras

and his colleagues will not have to resign until October 15, and only then will Mr Aristide return. Mr Clinton argued that the presence of 15,000 US troops on the ground would ensure the junta would not break its word.

Secondly, the agreement does not stipulate that the regime's leaders must leave Haiti. Administration officials

explained the compromises by saying that the leaders had had to be given an honourable way out to persuade them to resign. "A lot of this was face-saving," one said.

The immediate fall-out will almost certainly be beneficial for Mr Clinton, who has been spared having to order an invasion for which there was practically no public support.

But the concern of many congressmen is that enforcement of the deal will not go smoothly. The 15,000 US troops may be going into Haiti with the regime's consent but, with the junta still in power and Haiti a cauldron of bitter enmities, they could still be victims of hit-and-run attacks or caught in the crossfire of a quasi-civil war.

Thirdly, it envisages a general amnesty for Haiti's mili-

tary. In all probability, this means nobody will ever be held to account for the 1991 coup that toppled Mr Aristide, and for what Mr Clinton only last week denounced as a "reign of terror".

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But the concern of many congressmen is that enforcement of the deal will not go smoothly. The 15,000 US troops may be going into Haiti with the regime's consent but, with the junta still in power and Haiti a cauldron of bitter enmities, they could still be victims of hit-and-run attacks or caught in the crossfire of a quasi-civil war.

Mediator hailed as national hero in America

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

Jimmy Carter was hailed as a national hero yesterday, more than 13 years after his reputation as a "wimp" helped to end his presidency in a massive election defeat.

With his peacemaking deal in Haiti, Mr Carter has rescued President Clinton's foreign policy for the second time this summer. The first was his negotiation of a breakthrough in the nuclear standoff with North Korea.

Mr Carter, 69, could be forgiven for enjoying references to him as America's "greatest former President" and headlines hailing him as "Jimmy the Peacemaker". Even before the Haitian deal, Mr Carter had been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and must now be consid-

ered a strong favourite for the award, to be announced next month.

Even the right wing, who loathed the Democrat when he was in office, acknowledged his role in rescuing Mr Clinton from an unpopular invasion.

Mr Carter's offer to mediate in Haiti, where he knew all the participants, was rebuffed by the President but he changed his mind last Thursday and asked his predecessor to lead a trio of envoys for final talks. Mr Carter's latest triumph could revive the argument for making him Secretary of State in place of the bland Warren Christopher.

The former President took several months to recover from his trouncing by Ronald Reagan in the 1980 election. His failure to win the release of American hostages in the US Embassy in Tehran had contributed heavily to his reputation of being ineffectual. During his weeks of reflection, Mr Carter realised that the high point of his presidency had been the Middle East peace accord between Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, and President Sadat of Egypt.

He set up the Carter Centre, a non-profit organisation in Atlanta, which concentrates on monitoring disputes, promoting democracy, conquering disease and regenerating inner cities. Mr Carter's mediating skills have taken him to Ethiopia, Sudan and Liberia.



Yannyk Cédras, the Haitian leader's wife, watching an anti-Aristide protest in the capital



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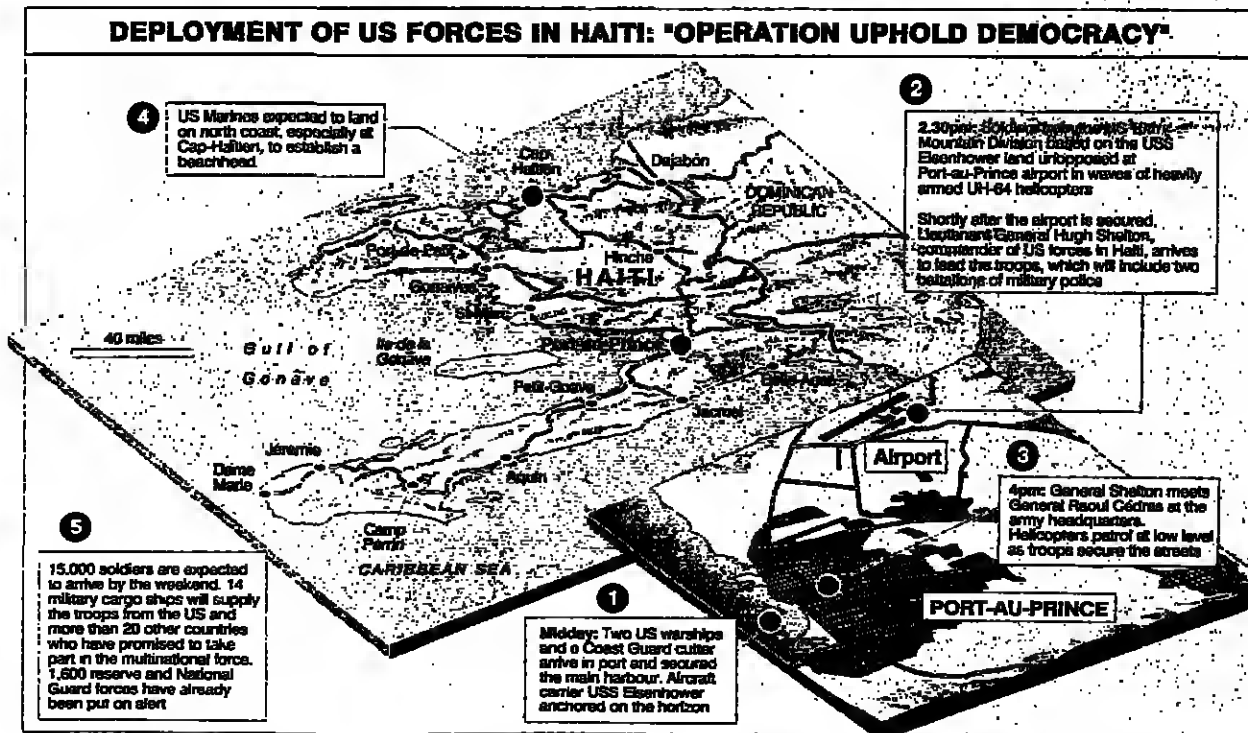
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Troops braced for resistance

FROM TOM RHODES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

AMERICAN troops can expect few security risks during the first days and even weeks of Operation Uphold Democracy, but might face difficulties later in what military planners hope will be a peaceful occupation.

It became clear yesterday that the Haitian army, police and paramilitaries would offer no resistance. Part of the agreement centred on co-operation between the Haitian armed forces and the incoming troops.

What remained uncertain was how the Americans would persuade certain militiamen to give up their weapons and status over the past three years.

A leaflet drop by American aircraft on Saturday urged

soldiers and members of Haitian paramilitary groups to the Ataché. Though the armed political party and the Patriotic Group for the Republic — to lay down their arms in the event of any outside military intervention.

The American troops have been warned, however, to expect resistance from certain more radical elements which may melt into the background equipped with personal arsenals that could be used to good effect later against the American army.

For Washington, the most relevant precedent appears to be the popular uprising in 1986 that unseated the dicta-

torship of Jean-Claude Duvalier. The infamous militia, the Tonton Macoute, which had ruled with murderous oppression throughout the reigns of Baby Doc and his father Pap Doc Duvalier did not retaliate against the people as had been expected. Haiti's turbulent political culture has left the

country with a strong tradition of *marouage*, or hiding, and many of those now deemed enemies of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the returning democratically elected President, are said to have fled to the countryside. Whether they will return to offer resistance is unknown.

One Haitian political ob-

server said yesterday the American armed services force of 15,000 might encounter sniping later, but that the soldiers were more likely to find themselves defending the people they have come to displace. "It is conceivable that they will have to protect both [Lieutenant General Raoul] Cédras from reprisals and Aristide from those who are certain to try to kill him," he said.

In Haiti, however, where misinformation and threats are commonplace, it is even likely that the greatest danger to any outside force will be occupation fatigue combined with an awareness that, in the weeks ahead, the American servicemen might well come to be perceived as a force of oppression.

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Saudis seek help from Britain over privatisation plans

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN ABU DHABI

SAUDI Arabia yesterday asked for Britain's help in privatising parts of its economy and gave assurances that British companies would remain key suppliers of its defence needs.

A team of Treasury and private-sector experts are to be sent to Jeddah and Riyadh soon to advise the Saudis on tentative plans to privatise parts of their telecommunications, electricity and other public utilities, the national airline, healthcare and how to tap private finance for road-building projects.

The Saudi government is considering selling parts of the public sector to replenish currency reserves, severely depleted by the cost of the Gulf War in 1991. The government has been running a budget

deficit for about 12 years because of declining prices for its oil exports and rising spending, particularly on defence. The programme could generate huge consultancy and stock-market flotation fees for British businesses.

John Major pressed the case for several British projects during his talks early yesterday with King Fahd. Anthony Nelson, the economic secretary to the Treasury, and the minister responsible for privatisation, continued the efforts yesterday.

During the 16-hour visit, progress was understood to have been made on deals to sell Westland's Merlin anti-submarine warfare helicopters to the Saudi defence forces, Rolls-Royce engines to the Saudi national flag carrier

and airline maintenance services, Avro International Aerospace jets for the Saudi royal flight, and for the Davy McKee Stockton engineering company to build a huge steel plant for the Saudi Iron and Steel Co (Hadeed).

Mr Major said yesterday that his talks with King Fahd "could scarcely have gone better". British officials said the atmosphere at the talks had been warm.

The Prime Minister said: "I am absolutely delighted we have strengthened a relationship that was strong before, which has lasted a long time and will endure." Mr Major and King Fahd also discussed political developments in the Middle East, covering countries such as Iran, Iraq and Yemen.

Howard Davies, the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, who is leading a team of businessmen on Mr Major's trip to the Gulf and South Africa, said that the Saudi visit "has exceeded our expectations. The mood music was extremely positive. We were not at the stage of putting signatures on cheques but the Prime Minister raised specific contract proposals and the King did not say no to any of them."

Mr Major and the business delegation later flew to Abu Dhabi where the Prime Minister had talks last night with Sheikh Zayed, the President of the United Arab Emirates. Today, Mr Major's party was due in Cape Town where the business mission will continue, while Mr Major will try to boost sporting and scientific links with the newly democratic South Africa.

Mr Davies said last night that the objective in South Africa would be to look for new export markets in tourism, pharmaceuticals and water projects, and to build on Britain's existing investment, currently standing at £10 billion.



Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, yesterday addressing a congregation of 300 at Peking's Chong Wen Men Church, which is housed in a wooden hall. His interpreter, a

woman priest, is the Rev Gao Ying. Dr Carey made only a passing reference to the difficulties still faced by religious believers in China (Reuters reports from Peking). "Chinese Christians

have been quite remarkable in the way you have adapted through times of great change," Dr Carey said, adding: "Sometimes that change has been violent and repressive."

US starts new peace mission in Syria

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMERICA today begins a new effort to make peace between Syria and Israel amid disclosures that the two sides have been having secret contacts and turmoil in Israel provoked by a belief that a deal to hand back the Golan Heights is near.

Dennis Ross and Martin Indyk, US State Department officials, will start their mission in Damascus where the autocratic regime of President Assad has taken the rare step of allowing the appearance of political slogans welcoming the peace process.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, will be taking up the mediation task again next month. Israeli and Arab officials hope that after the Haiti crisis America will be free to devote itself to resolving the Jerusalem-Damascus deadlock.

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Israel's Housing Minister, was said yesterday to have confirmed reports that Israel and Syria have been in secret contact in a similar fashion to the talks in Norway that led to the last year's peace between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. According to Israel Radio, the minister confirmed that there were secret contacts with Syria, "not at the ministerial level, but at the same echelons that led, in his words, to the dizzying success in other peace agreements".

The state-controlled radio did not elaborate on its report and the minister was not available for comment. Moves towards an Israeli-Syrian deal have been gathering pace in recent weeks, leading to speculation that exchanges were taking place. Tension in Israel over the peace moves increased yesterday with the publication of a report in the Tel Aviv paper *Maariv* — denied by the military — that an army unit had been set up and was training for the eventual removal of settlers from the occupied Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hurd insists Gatt accord must hold

FROM DAVID WATTS IN TOKYO

DOUGLAS Hurd last night warned America and Japan not to undermine the recently concluded General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade deal by negotiating direct bilateral agreements in individual market sectors.

The Foreign Secretary said that nobody should believe, because a Gatt agreement had been reached, that that was the end of the story for free trade. He said that, generally, the argument for managed trade — already in place between Japan and America for car parts — had been resisted in Europe, which had a genuinely open market. But the debate between the European Union, America and Japan was still far from over.

Mr Hurd was speaking against a background of continuing disappointment with the sales of Scotch whisky in Japan. In the mid-1980s Britain waged a vigorous campaign for a reduction of the tax on whisky so that it could better compete with local spirits. The latest whisky sales figures, however, show an increase of only 0.5 per cent over the past seven years.

Addressing the National Press Club, the Foreign Secretary said: "We need from the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) good rules, well applied and well enforced. We also need a commitment from all members to play by the rules."

"The route to managed trade is sadly, easy to follow. We need to convince protectionists that a fair and open market really exists. Our trade policy must be transparent."

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Boat people stave off forced repatriation

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

VIETNAMESE boat people refusing forced repatriation from a Hong Kong detention camp withstood an assault yesterday by prison officers using tear gas, forcing the operation to be abandoned for the night. The government said in a statement that attempts to remove them would resume today.

What had been planned in the morning as an orderly operation to begin the transfer of 80 boat people from the 20,000 or more who have been deemed not to be bona fide political refugees turned into chaos in the afternoon when 20 of them refused to be moved, saying they would

rather die than return to Vietnam. They were supported by 1,000 chanting fellow inmates. Ten Vietnamese climbed on to a roof and two were seen being carried from the camp on stretchers.

Refugee Concern, a charity that works in the camps, condemned the degree of force used yesterday as totally unnecessary. However, use of tear gas had been moderate.

In April, at the same camp, more than 200 refugees were treated in hospital after beatings and 550 rounds of tear gas were used against them. An inquiry concluded that force, while necessary, had been heavy-handed.

UN troops 'selling' vehicles to Somalis

FROM SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU

THE United Nations operation in Somalia has come under close scrutiny from its New York headquarters after disclosure of irregularities in its procurement section where Egyptian troops have helped Somalis to steal UN vehicles and ammunition.

The Egyptian contingent, the third-largest in Somalia, has been replaced by Zimbabwean soldiers at the port. But UN sources said they were still involved in deals at the airport where they are on guard duty.

In the teeming Bakara market in the centre of the city, a new minibus stolen from the UN now sells for about

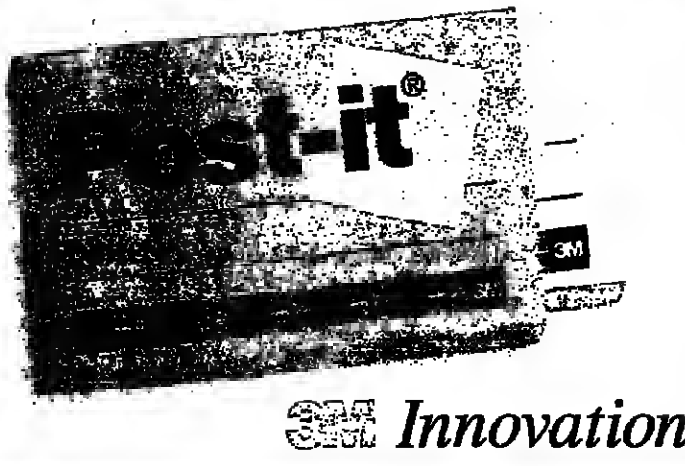
£2,500. Sources here said the Egyptians had also been selling ammunition to Somali warlords. But Major Richard McDonald, the UN's military spokesman in Somalia, said that the Egyptians had been cleared over allegations that they were selling weapons.

Several members of the UN procurement section here have been fired for failing to prevent the theft of \$3.9 million (£2.5 million) in cash from their offices at the heavily guarded compound.

Kofi Annan, the head of UN peacekeeping, left here yesterday after a three-day visit which, sources said, had been a "shocking revelation."



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In mourning with Papa Doc

Ian Thomson meets the last British Ambassador to Haiti, who left in 1962

Anglo-Haitian diplomatic relations have long been unhappy. For more than 30 years there has been no British ambassador in Port-au-Prince: the last was ordered to leave at 24 hours' notice in 1962. Gerard Corley Smith had protested against the gangsterism of the Tontons Macoute, President Duvalier's bogymen and secret police. "Needless to say Papa Doc never supplied me with an airline ticket," the former ambassador, now 85, says. "There was quite a rapid turnover of diplomats."

I first came across Mr Corley Smith in a bizarre pamphlet published by Papa Doc in 1962, "Graham Greene—Finally Exposed". Distributed to journalists through Haitian embassies in Europe, it sought to discredit Greene because of his anti-Duvalier novel *The Comedians*. While Greene is a "negrophobic benzedrin addict" and "habitué of leper houses", Mr Corley Smith is exposed to a milder drubbing. "The Haitian government has made it known to this famous ambassador that... he should guard against trespassing the limits of good education. His imperiousness and haughtiness as a British colonialist would not be tolerated."

"The Tontons Macoute," Mr Corley Smith said, "were exacting illegal funds to build Duvalierville! This was to be the architectural equivalent of Brasilia. Any reluctance to help to finance its construction resulted in the ransacking of premises or in torture during the hours of darkness. Duvalierville is now a ghost town, a home to stray dogs and beggars. According to Greene, it was 'impossible to deepen the night' of Papa Doc's reign of terror. It lasted for 14 long years until 1971. His wisest son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, misruled for a further 15 years. The collapse of Baby Doc's regime in 1986 was followed by a familiar round of coups d'état, rigged elections, martial law. The country is now so rotten that occupation is perhaps the only solution. The junta headed by General Raoul Cédras has already lost control of its own violence."

"Cédras represents a continuation of the Duvalier dynasty," says Mr Corley Smith. "But we shouldn't confuse

General Cédras with ordinary Haitians whom I liked very much." He remembers their friendly "Bonjour Blanc" (a Creole expression meaning "Hello, stranger") as he went bird-watching in the hills.

Mr Corley Smith was educated at Bolton, near Manchester, and at Cambridge. After several years with the General Consular Service, in 1952 he was appointed press counsellor at the British Embassy in Paris. Following his hapless two-year posting to Haiti, he was made British Ambassador to Ecuador in 1962.

Since that date, British interest in Haiti has been represented by the odd vice-consul. "To my knowledge, Papa Doc was the only Fascist dictator at any time in Latin America," Mr Corley Smith says. "The Tontons Macoute fulfilled the role of Hitler's Brown Shirts; and the Palace Guard that of the SS."

Known today as "attachés", the Tontons Macoute display a dog-like devotion to General Cédras and efficient hatchet work. More than 3,000 people have been murdered since Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically elected President, was toppled by the military three years ago. Tontons Macoute means "Uncle Knapsack" in Creole patois. This mythological figure appears in Haitian nursery stories as a woodoo spook who kidnaps children in a big straw bag.

What was he like to meet, François Duvalier? "Oh, the few conversations I had with Papa Doc are of little interest to anyone. There was never very much business to be done in Haiti. But I will say this: he spoke in a funny sort of whisper, and liked everyone to dress in mourning. When you presented your credentials as an ambassador, you were often required to wear a black suit, black socks and, if I remember, a black top hat. Most odd."

"I find it difficult to conceive of any solution to Haiti's problems," Mr Corley Smith says. "The country has been independent for two centuries now. And it has never had a good ruler."

● Ian Thomson is the author of *Bonjour Blanc A Journey Through Haiti* (Penguin).



Casual encounter: Corley Smith, left, with Papa Doc

Roy Spence: a world-renowned surgeon in the front line against terrorism

The scalpel against the gun

In the last 25 years of Ulster's Troubles, the many dark deeds that have been committed on both extremes of the political divide have been illuminated and relieved by acts of personal courage and integrity.

While the terrorists have done their worst, others have done their best, none more so than in the blood-strewn sector of trauma surgery. Northern Ireland now has some of the finest trauma surgeons in the world, superbly skilled in dealing with the victims of bomb blasts, shootings and violent assault.

For those involved, it has been both harrowing and rewarding. Roy Spence, whose reputation extends as far as America, Japan, Canada and South Africa, remembers how, when the first victims of IRA kneecappings were brought in for treatment to Belfast's City Hospital in the 1970s, it was front-page news.

More than two decades on, "punishment" shootings on both sides of the terrorist divide have become routine and are normally left to junior surgeons to sort out. Only the 10 per cent or so of cases in which the victim's kneecaps have been shattered or, worse, major arteries have been severed are the skill and experience of a top practitioner required. Then, the operation can go on throughout the night. Wounds can be filthy, with a mixture of bone, blood, clothing and cordite having to be cleaned out meticulously before the suture can be completed.

What offends Mr Spence most is not so much the fact of the shooting, cruel though it is, but the style in which it is conducted, which has become a grotesque parody of his own calling.

"It could be a car thief or a joyrider, or even one of their own who has done something that has offended the leadership. They meet and decide what treatment he is to get and then call round to the house to fix an appointment. The victim will be given a time and a place and will be asked to report promptly to be shot. Either that or they can do it at his home."

"Those who are to be kneecapped know there is no way out of it. You can run, but they'll find you eventually, and then it'll be a bullet in the head. So what do they do? They drink heavily—a bottle of whiskey or vodka—and then they report to the appointed place. They may even have to wait their turn. Then they're brought in and a handgun is placed at the back of their knee and they're shot. Afterwards, if they're lucky, a black cab will have been ordered to bring them round to see me or my colleagues and then it is up to us to repair the damage."

With the "complete cessation of military operations" by the IRA, republican "punishments" this month have undergone a subtle shift. Guns—obvious symbols of

the armed struggle—have been replaced with baseball bats and bricks. Loyalist groups, for the moment, continue to use the traditional method, but should they, too, agree to a ceasefire, blunt instruments are expected to become the principal means of terrorist enforcement on the Shankill as well as the Falls.

For Mr Spence, and other surgeons throughout Ulster, this is familiar territory. He remembers how the Provisionals, when administering internal discipline within the movement, would sometimes spread their victims on the ground, then drop breeze blocks on their limbs. "Usually, the result was severe bruising, rather than broken bones, but the point was that the volunteers could be back in action in a month or two."

Different acts of terror present different challenges. After a bookmaker's shop in a predominantly Catholic part of south Belfast had been shot up by loyalists in 1992, resulting in five deaths and scores of wounded, Mr Spence, as senior surgeon, was called on to make life and death decisions amid anxious relatives and the groans of victims.

He and his team of surgeons operated throughout the night, and all 17 of those who had been selected for emergency treatment, including many with multiple injuries to the head, abdomen and limbs, lived to tell the tale.

"One young lad who had been shot in the stomach told me how one of the terrorists had walked up and down after the first assault, with the heels of his shoes clicking on the floor, looking for people who were still alive and then, coldly and calculatedly, putting a bullet in their head. His brother-in-law's body had fallen on top of him, and as the gunman walked past him he played dead lying beneath."

Bombs pose their own problems. "With bombs, it is not all about the blast. If you are too close, there's no hope for you. You're simply blown away. But if you're further off, metal casings and nails can still cause massive destruction to body tissue. In the case of a car bomb, bits of a vehicle can come whistling through the air at 1,000mph—and then there's the fireball, leading to heat damage and smoke inhalation."

That's what surgeons, and nurses, in Northern Ireland have had to deal with every week for the last 25 years—and then we see Gerry Adams hailed in the US as the saviour of his people."

Mr Spence's commitment to the Northern Ireland he plainly loves has been tested many times over the years, but never more so than on the Saturday afternoon in March, 1988 when coverage on television of an



The IRA funeral mob killings nearly drove Roy Spence to America—"but in the end I believe in this place"

Irish international rugby match was interrupted by news of the murder of two off-duty corporals by an IRA funeral crowd in West Belfast.

"I remember the mob rule and the hate and the yaboo with a wheelbarrow on top of the soldiers' car striking out at them. That hit me harder than many other things. It was animal behaviour, and I nearly

left for good to work in the States.

"But in the end I believe in this place. It could be a wonderful country. Most of the people are decent. If I'm away from home and the pipes burst, neighbours will be round in minutes. If I'm dealing with the wounded at a bomb blast, they don't whine or yap at me. They know I'm doing what I can."

I ask him what he thinks of the prospects for peace. He pauses. "We've seen it all before. Ceasefires and the like. What I want to know is, what have they done with their arms and explosives? All we're doing at the moment is stumbling towards peace. I just hope it lasts."

TOMORROW: The teacher

Kiss and cash in quick

THE STORY of the bishop and the telephonist is not yet over as far as Annie Murphy is concerned. You may remember Ms Murphy, a glamorous American divorcee who scandalised Ireland by revealing her affair and the child she had with Dr Eamonn Casey, the Bishop of Galway.

Two years ago, she portrayed herself as a wronged woman, gained the sympathy of many, and claimed she only exposed the affair after Dr Casey refused to acknowledge his teenage son. Certainly, Ms Murphy had demanded money early on from the bishop for her silence, but this was in the form of monthly child-support payments, and assumed to be a question of necessity rather than greed.

Then a short item appeared this month in the court circular column of a local newspaper in New York, which showed the one-time telephonist had long had the intention of wringing every penny from the subject of illicit Catholic love. It turns out that Ms Murphy, along with her lawyer and another executive, set up a limited company in 1992 to profit from the publicity surrounding her affair. The curiously named Forthright Enterprises Ltd and Forthright Ltd were created "to manage the exploitation of Ms Murphy's story" according to her lawyer Peter McKay. Now, dissatisfied with the profits brought in by Forthright, Ms Murphy is suing her partners in the New York courts for breach of contract and negligence.

Even in America, a country acclimatised to Tonya Harding, John Wayne Bobbitt and O.J. Simpson's witnesses selling their sordid testimony to the tabloids often long before any trial, the existence of a long-running, professional "dirt-for-dollars" company

The "dirt-for-dollar" reasons why Annie Murphy told on the bishop

came as a shock. "One rarely hears of a business formed strictly to promulgate and profit from—gossip," sniffed the *New York Observer*.

Ms Murphy, now 47, first employed Mr McKay in 1990, when he successfully negotiated a one-off child support payment of \$100,000 from the bishop, probably intended for



KATE MUIR

college fees. In exchange, Ms Murphy kept her silence about their son Peter, currently a 19-year-old university student. Two years later, Ms Murphy told Mr McKay that she intended to expose her 18-month affair in the early 1970s with Dr Casey after all, and the bishop resigned.

The lawyer agreed to deal with public and press relations for her, set up press conferences, and arranged an appearance on the popular American chat show, *Donahue*. He advised Ms Murphy on her behaviour during such television appearances, "ensuring she would not squander her opportunity for a book deal", and work began on the

selling of film rights to the carnal transgression.

In interviews at the time Ms Murphy said of her motives: "All I wanted was for the story to be known... how sad it was, how the Catholic Church in its archaic views, could deny Dr Casey the right to his son." But according to papers filed in court by Mr McKay, Ms Murphy wanted a great deal more than that. Along with a lifetime company executive, Alfred Hemlock, they formed Forthright, which in exchange for a percentage of the profits, was to pay Ms Murphy an advance of \$500 a week for up to six months. Forthright also paid for her trip to Ireland to promote the story, air fares for the co-author of her book, it hired hotels for press conferences and provided a series of limousines.

SOON MS MURPHY was given an \$850,000 advance from the American publishers Warner Books and Little, Brown for her book on the affair, *Forbidden Fruit: The True Story of my Secret Love for the Bishop of Galway*. As it went to number one on Dublin's best-seller list in 1993, it was promoted as not merely a "kiss 'n' tell" book, but as a wider debate on celibacy. It included lines such as: "His blind, twitching hands raced again all over the braille of my body." Serial rights were sold for thousands.

Clearly, Ms Murphy is not satisfied with her cut from the aforementioned deals, and the courts are still sorting out the maze. While Ms Murphy is deep in somewhat squalid litigation, the 67-year-old former bishop has become a missionary in Ecuador. He maintains contact with his son and hopes "to develop a good relationship out of the eyes of the media".

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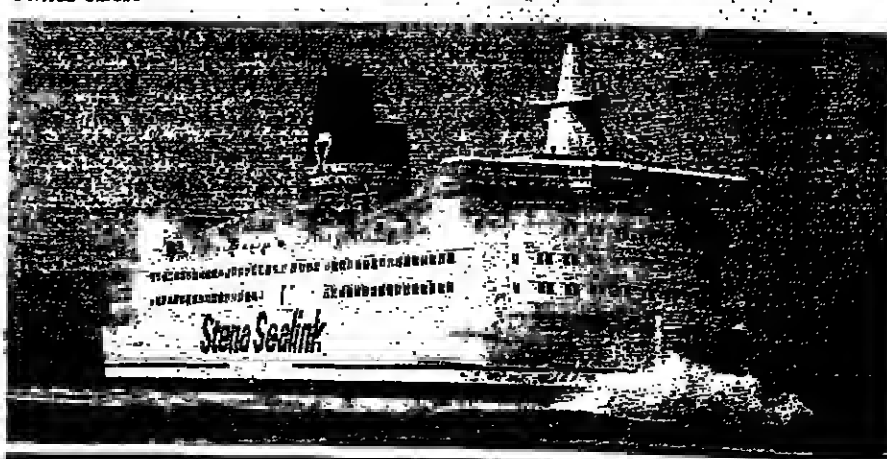
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Full details of how to make short-notice bookings or how to book through a travel agent appeared in Saturday's paper.



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The Partners in the firms of Bailhache & Bailhache and Bois Labesse are very pleased to announce that the two firms have merged effective 1 September 1994. The firm now comprises eight partners and approximately 70 support staff. The predecessor firms were very long established with the older having its origins in the 1890s. The merged practice will continue to maintain very close association with a number of commercial, banking and other financial institutions for whom it now acts. In the past a number of leading firms of London solicitors and accountants have instructed the predecessor practices and regular instructions were also received from professional advisers in other major international finance centres. As well as providing legal advice in many diverse areas to their significant local client base, the partners in the merged firm have particular interests in commercial litigation, banking and securities work. In addition, due to the island's fiscal status the merged firm's partners have developed particular expertise in the provision of offshore advice and in the related ancillary areas of trusts and corporate structures generally. The firm has a number of in-house fiduciary service companies which are available to its clients.

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Magnus Linklater on the moderate new face of the SNP

Scotland is in English hands

George Robertson, Labour MP for Hamilton and shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, was not mincing his words when he spoke earlier this month at a conference in Frankfurt. "Nationalism," he said, "is possibly the worst danger to stability in the world today and in its many different manifestations it is among the most malign forces challenging international order..." He said that nationalism was to blame for the spilling of blood in Northern Ireland, in Spain and in Italy, and that unless it is stemmed it will create mayhem even closer to home. He was referring to the Scottish National Party.

As it happens, the SNP had just published the agenda for its 60th party conference, which opens in Inverness tomorrow. Perhaps Mr Robertson had not had time to read it. It highlights some of the key resolutions to be debated in Inverness, including a call for school buses to have seat-belts fitted, measures to reduce air and sea pollution, a debate about the future shape of Europe, opposition to nuclear hawks at Rosyth, rejection of UK economic policies, and measures to end duty discrimination against whisky.

This is hardly the stuff of bloody revolution, but perhaps it is more revealing of Scottish Nationalism today than Mr Robertson's hint of ethnic cleansing. At 60, the SNP, which was once associated with a dangerous brand of radicalism, has come of age.

Despite Mr Robertson's warnings, we are apparently in the era of nanny-state nationalism. SNP members out to prove themselves a pragmatic party of the social democratic order, able to deliver sound economic policies in the run-up to their ultimate goal of independence in Europe.

The party is not doing badly, albeit this is the middle of an unpopular Government's term of office. This year the SNP has gained control of two regional councils, won a second seat in the European Parliament, and won a third of the Scottish vote. It is now in a strong second place to Labour in Scotland. All of which may account for Mr Robertson's apparent paranoia. He talks of the SNP threatening to "wrench one nation" out of the United Kingdom. It would be truer to say that it is trying to pull it out.

There is, however, good reason for looking hard at the nationalist movement now. More than ever before, the Scottish electorate seems willing to contemplate independence. October 1974, when the SNP sent 11 MPs to Westminster, appeared to be a breakthrough, but while the party achieved support of around 30 per cent in the 1970s, independence itself rarely attracted more than 20 per cent backing. Today this figure stands at between 35 and 40 per cent.

A June poll found that 48 per cent of Scots believe that an independent Scotland would get a better deal out of Europe.

and only 15 per cent think it would be worse off. Yet this is a curious phenomenon because it is not accompanied by any manifestation of nationalist fervour. The various protest groups that were formed in the disillusioned aftermath of the general election have gone to ground; candidates on the stump in this year's elections reported no surge of interest. Neither the Irish ceasefire nor the election in Quebec has caught the public imagination in Scotland.

Yet support for nationalism grows steadily. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, believes that his party's policy on Europe appeals especially. Independence for Scotland inside Europe has a comforting ring that stanches the fear of isolation. It offers Scotland greater economic strength than it has within the United Kingdom, he says, and he has been round the boardrooms to argue his case. Unusually for a radical party, the emphasis is on down-to-earth policies and phrases: consensus, credibility, economic competence.

Perhaps more important is a mounting disillusion among Scots with the idea of the unitary British state. There are fewer reasons these days for Scots to feel British. As Allan Massie pointed out recently, the Scots have no trouble fighting a war under a British flag, but in peacetime the reasons are less compelling.

More than 15 years ago, the nationalist Tom Nairn wrote in his book *The Break-up of Britain*: "It would be exaggerated to claim that the UK state is yet quite like the Hapsburg Empire or the old Castilian state. But the similarities are notable enough: there is a recognisable composite of archaism, incoherent economic failure, incurable-looking complacency, indurate social conservatism and blind will to survive in the same historic form." Extract the polemic from this and many Scots would agree. Great Britain has a much weaker claim on people's loyalty than Scotland.

Yet the polls still show a healthy majority for the Labour Party, which proposes a Scottish parliament within the Union, rather than a separate state. Nagging problems attach to this. Labour has not yet spelt out how this would work in practice, or how much it would cost. Furthermore, the Scots have been voting doggedly for devotion for years, to no great effect. Small wonder that they may be losing faith in it. They know that however many Scots support it, a parliament in Edinburgh can only be delivered by the voters of the Midlands and the South-East of England.

So for the time being, the Scottish Nationalists have some appeal. But whether they can continue to claim the radical high ground with their exciting call for seat-belts on buses and less pollution remains to be seen.



No shortcuts will do

Whatever the problem, the Swiss have an implement for the purpose.

Now they have been knifed by a judge

There is no getting away from it: the Swiss are not greatly loved. (Except by the Swiss themselves, I presume.) There is something about their placidity that turns into smugness, and their efficiency annoys not only the lands which lack the Swiss meticulousness but even those which are reasonably efficient themselves. Much of the dislike of the Swiss comes from (it was ever thus) plain envy. Lesser breeds without the law can only stand and jeer; but the mockery can go too far — Switzerland has been permanently damaged by those brutal but imperishably memorable words of Orson Welles:

In Italy for thirty years under the Borgias they had warfare, terror, murder, bloodshed; they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance. In Switzerland they had brotherly love, five hundred years of democracy and peace, and what did they produce...? The cuckoo clock.

Anyone who has the smallest idea of Swiss history will know that the Swiss have fought — have had to fight — for their independence: those 500 years were very far from democracy and peace, and when, in the Second World War, Switzerland was the only light in subjugated Europe to remain burning, the Swiss were ready for Hitler, as they have always been and still are ready for any intruder however unlikely it is today that any power would intrude. (By Swiss law, every adult male must still have and keep a gun, together with ammunition.)

Yet, as I say, the Swiss are not widely loved: perhaps the goody-goody story of William Tell and the apple has got up the world's nose. (It got up my nose good and proper when Coven Garden staged Rossini's version. I can tell you. I recall going there with a troubled mind: for weeks — months — the work had been boosted, and when the day came the house was packed. Why, then, did I have a troubled mind? It was because I had realised that the famous overture — diddle-dum-diddle-dum — was the only bit of the work any of us had heard. Was it possible, I asked my troubled mind, that the rest of it did not come up to the overture? I settled down in my seat, and having listened to one very familiar overture I found myself listening to something like four-and-a-half hours of the most pole-axeing boredom I had ever had in an opera-house.)

By now, my readers (at least those who have not fallen asleep with all this Swiss business or are from the Swiss Embassy hanging on my lightest word) will be wondering what I am getting at. I am getting at something the Swiss have made, and which no one else has made though very many have tried: something so splendid, so magnificent, so wonderful, gorgeous and beautiful (yes, it is also beautiful, though dangerous) that it ought to be greeted with hymns whenever it is seen. And now it is under attack, and it behaves me to break a lance or two in its defence.

Yes, of course you know what I am talking about: you guessed paragraphs ago. I am talking about the Swiss Army knife — no, I'm not. I'm talking about The Swiss Army Knife — that unique creation, and mine lies beside me as I write. (The attack I mentioned I shall discuss a little later.)

I pick it up, and open it to the full, very gingerly, and I count yet again the unbelievable riches which, once opened, it displays. For those of you who do not know my treasure already, I urge you to rush to any shop sensible enough to stock it; but before you rush, let me enumerate its joys. Not counting the attachments that have a dual purpose, they are in number — I speak true, let the newcomers gasp — fifteen.

Here is the Great Blade, king of the knife, before which all other items bow. One mighty flash of steel, and, say, a Home Office minister bites the dust; if the wielder has a smattering of anatomy he could get it in two-and-a-half inches deep. The great knife is accompanied, point to point, by the small blade: although an inch and a quarter, it somehow seems quite placid, though it is every bit as sharp as its big brother. (Perhaps one could just cut the minister's jugular without a thrust.)

Before I forget them (my miss my friends? bahl! impossible!), let me

demonstrate the tiniest of helpmeets: the tweezers and the toothpick. These could easily be overlooked; their tiny bodies slide into the half of the knife and seem nothing but a spot. But neither the tweezers nor the toothpick is a jest; I have used them both and they both do the jobs they were made for.

Next, I take the saw. A toy saw, you say? You know not Switzerland, nor me. If any of my colleagues, reading this, is inclined to jeer, I shall be most happy to saw his desk in two. To remind me, I gently — oh, very gently — run my thumb along the saw, and I can assure you that that is no toy.

No, we get a little more domestic: any beautiful lady who has lost her nail-file, or any other beautiful lady who has just broken a nail and

hasn't got a nail-file in her reticule, can be sure to find succour, at least if I am around: the cross-cutting is perfect and the makers have not forgotten to tip the file. A ruler, you say — there surely isn't a ruler? But there is. And a pair of scissors. And a magnifying glass. And a cork-screw. And a bottle-opener. And a nail-remover. And two kinds of screwdriver.

And — I brace myself against what is coming — a thing for taking stones out of horses' hooves.

No, I have never been in a situation which has called upon me to take any stone out of any horse's hoof. But that does not get us any further. For all I know, I may go to my death without ever having got nearer to taking out a stone of a horse's hoof than watching the Derby on television. Nevertheless, I say that it is a thing for taking stones out of horses' hooves, and you can't prove that it isn't. (My beloved old friend Bill Hewitt, who died some months ago, once shut me up when I was

taking the horses' hooves position against him, by saying — somewhat unkindly I thought, though accurately — that I wouldn't know which end of a horse was which, and so could hardly claim detailed knowledge of their hooves.)

But now for the call to arms. In the United States, some cross-eyed nasty (may he be trampled to death by enraged horses with their hooves full of stones) has managed to convince a presumably chuckleheaded judge that the Swiss Army knife (that is what it has always been called) is not "location-specific", so anybody can now make and sell them, however inferior, under the name of Swiss Army Knives.

The Real Stuff has no worries when it comes to China; for some two years there has been a counterfeit version, but it is so obviously inferior that the Real Swiss model was and is in no danger, though Real Swiss took the Chinese version to court, to put down a marker. But now? The way is clear for the fakers — fakers who cannot be arraigned as fakers, but are fakers nonetheless. Am I making fake heavy weather out of this story? You wouldn't say that if you knew how the very word *Victorinox* has thrilled me from the day, many years ago, that I acquired my knife.

Bad money drives out good: Gresham's Law. But that wise truth can be used in a thousand forms, and every one of them gloomily true. After all, you don't have to be as old as I am to remember Oxford Street before it was ruined (even the mock auction has come back) but why do ten things deteriorate in the time one thing improves? Entropy, somebody said, but that doesn't help, particularly because I have no idea what it means.

Well, I have my Real Swiss Knife, with its 15 helpmeets, and nobody is going to tell me that I should turn it in for a cheap (or, for that matter, expensive) fake.

Dreams, dreams; perhaps we could catch the judge who delivered the judgment and lock him in with the four-and-a-half hour *William Tell*. Or we could go about jogging the elbows of people we see using the fakes. Or — and perhaps it is the best way to go — we could say, and go on saying, as did one of the chief executives of The Real Stuff, "The Americans make such a fuss about protecting consumers and intellectual property rights, and then they do this."

Why the IRA are beaten

Woodrow Wyatt on Major the great negotiator

Last Friday on Belfast television, John Major displayed a remarkable, confident authority on Northern Ireland. He is a supreme negotiator, patient but determined. His promise of a referendum in the province on any proposals emanating from discussions satisfied even Mr Paisley, who had previously made a disgraceful exhibition of himself when telling the Prime Minister in Downing Street that he was lying in maintaining that there were no secret deals and would be none.

Albert Reynolds was also pleased. Realistically, he said he could foresee no change in Ulster's status for at least 25 years. For this he was abused by Sinn Féin leaders — no bad sign.

There also has to be a referendum in the Republic. The Constitution requires this before Articles 2 and 3, which claim that Northern Ireland is part of the Republic, can be removed. There is sure to be a massive vote in favour. Support for Sinn Féin (the IRA's spokesmen and partners) is scarcely over 1 per cent in the Republic, as against 10 per cent in Ulster. Northern Ireland's support for the *status quo* was demonstrated in the referendum of 1973: of an electorate of just over a million, nearly 600,000 voted to stay in the United Kingdom. Since then, more and more Roman Catholics have been supporting the Union. The official British Social Attitudes Survey of two years ago found that 38 per cent of Northern Ireland's Roman Catholics want to remain in the UK.

This is hardly surprising. The standard of living in the North is substantially higher than in the South, and social security services and pensions are better, being financed on a bigger tax base. Unemployment is admittedly high in Ulster, at 13 per cent; but in the Republic it is 17 per cent. The North's industrial productivity, based on the prevailing work ethic, is high, and much of the real industry in the whole of Ireland is found around Belfast and Londonderry. During the past 25 years of IRA terrorism, firms coming to Ulster have done well, and if there is a permanent peace more investment will follow.

There is little reason why Roman Catholics or anyone else should wish to join a Republic dominated by old-fashioned Catholics. In the Republic, divorce is not allowed, and what contraceptive devices are permitted are curiously described as not being for birth control. It is true that abortions are not lawful in Ulster, but nothing prevents the people going to London for them; whereas in the Republic there is a tremendous commotion if a pregnant teenager goes to England for one even after a rape.

The ban on the voices of Sinn Féin leaders being heard on the air greatly irritated them, so Major's decision to lift it immediately seems debatable. But it does give a chance to make a better assessment of the IRA's spokesmen. However, the actors were easier to understand: the genuine tones are so thick that the Sinn Féin leaders actually got their message over more clearly before.

Mr Major has made no change to his insistence that permanent peace must be promised before discussions start. The failure of the IRA/Sinn Féin to give this assurance must mean that they are keeping their options open, that if they do not get what they hope for, they will recommence the terrorism. Yet they seem certain to be forced to do what Mr Major asks. They are a busted flush of no substance. There has never been so great a demand for an end to violence, on both sides of the border. Those most reluctant to promise peace — which involves surrendering their arms — are probably those who care less for a united Ireland than for the vast sums they make in laundering drug money, often from American sources, and protection rackets. The rest of the IRA will have to stamp on these dissidents if it is ever to take part in future discussions.

Birthrates among Ulster Catholics are slowing down. They are now about 40 per cent of the population in the province. The hatreds were never primarily religious but racial. The Stuart settlers who got the best bits of Ulster more than 350 years ago, around the time that the *Mayflower* sailed to Massachusetts, were Scottish and English, who happened to be Protestant, unlike the indigenous Irish. They have been resented ever since.

At last, resentment eases and hope rises. There is a powerful feeling among the majority in the North that all the resistance to the IRA murders and bombings has been worthwhile. That goes, too, for the British on the mainland, who have been fanned despite the inhuman destruction. Gerry Adams seeks a visa to visit America at the end of September. If President Clinton sees him at the White House and he is welcomed as some kind of hero, Anglo-American relations will be badly damaged. He is no more a hero than the retaliatory murderers of the so-called loyalists. Albert Reynolds understands this, and has played his part courageously. But the author of a permanent peace will be persuasive John Major, last being appreciated abroad, if not yet at home, as a top world statesman.

Pen friends

ANOTHER aristocratic heirloom is due to go under the gavel. The Earl of Shelburne, master of Bowood House and its 5,000 acres in Wiltshire, is selling off correspondence from the family archives. They should fetch a tidy sum as Lord Shelburne, a close friend of the Prince of Wales and his near-neighbour Camilla Parker Bowles, has a well-connected ancestry. Christie's believes the scribbles to and from his family could sell for around £700,000.

American interest and fevered bidding is assured for reams of correspondence between King George III and the 2nd Earl of Shelburne, who was heavily involved in negotiations after the American War of Independence. "These letters alone are likely to fetch between £90,000 and £120,000," says Christie's.

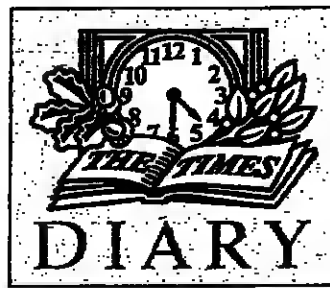
The present earl, president of the Historic Houses Association and heir to the marquessate of Lansdowne, is reluctant to talk about the sale, which would clearly help maintenance costs on his enormous mansion. "I'm not saying a single word," he declared from his golf club yesterday. A clear indication of the family's

pedigree is contained in the collection, however. There are signed letters to Shelburne's ancestors from Napoleon, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and William Penn. He has also commissioned Christie's to auction correspondence with Lord Byron, Thomas Moore and the father of photography, Henry Fox-Talbot. Less in evidence is modern-day communication with royalty — the mobile phone has taken its toll.

Sticky fingers

STILL glowing from the triumph of her five-tier masterpiece of cake and confectionery for Laura Palumbo's wedding on Saturday, Jane Asher, purveyor of baked extravaganzas to the great and the good, has been lending her knowledge of the sweet things of life to radio.

She will soon be investigating the sticky world of chocolate technology on a Radio 2 programme celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the famous American Hershey Bar. "During my investigation I had to eat the latest development: tomato-flavoured



chocolate. Quite disgusting," she shuddered. Nothing, however, on the bill, geranium and rhubarb bars now at the culinary edge of chocolate technology.

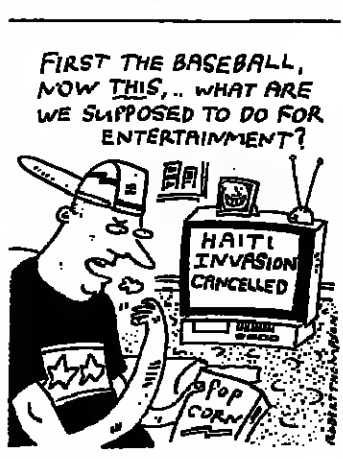
● The rail strike is still exerting pressure. Railtrack needs another press officer. "Successful candidates will be required to be medically fit to go on or about the railway track," says an advertisement in *the Times*. And mon the odd signal box perhaps?

Ewe bet

ACCUSATIONS of foul play are being levelled at Viscount Whitelaw's daughter, Susan Cunliffe-Lister. Local people are complaining that she has employed dubious tactics to secure victory at the annual sheep race at

Masham, her North Yorkshire estate, next weekend. The series of sprints involves runners hurrying over jumps and down a short course towards a pail of feed, which will be rattled. And the rattle will be Cunliffe-Lister herself. Betting is furious for the charity race, and some owners claim Cunliffe-Lister's team, led by her champion Liole Horn, has a distinct advantage: they know the sound of her bucket.

"They're my four greediest ewes," she boasts. "But the trouble is that other sheep are used to the sound of different buckets and some people think mine have an unfair advantage."



● By toutatis! More adventures of Asterix, the indomitable Gaul, could be on the way. Attending a weekend convention in London, one of his creators, Albert Uderzo, was having second thoughts about putting his pairbrushes away. "I think we might have persuaded him to do another book," purrured Anthea Bell, one of his translators. "It's in the lap of the gods now."

Red-handed

TONY Blair's supporters are serious about crime. While popping the Labour Party's "Crack Down on Crime" leaflets through letterboxes in Cornwall the other day, Jeremy Rhys, a lifelong party member, caught a thief.

"Suddenly the front door flew open and this burly man, who was obviously up to no good, came running out," says Rhys, from Redruth. "I dropped my leaflets and jumped on top of him. I kept him in an armlock while my mate called the police. It's not very often that you can turn political prose into instant action."

Cat callers

LADY Antonia Fraser has been inundated with calls from cat-lovers after leaving a message about her



two new kittens on her answerphone. If anyone is calling about her cats, the message says, please leave all the information you can. All callers understandably sympathise, thinking her cats are missing. Not a bit of it, says Lady Antonia, the message is simply a precaution — and a sensible one bearing in mind that Princess Michael of Kent's fluffy friend was killed near by. A squirrel was blamed. "They are young and sprightly," says Lady Antonia, "and they do tend to wander off. I have my telephone number on their collar-tags so that people can ring me if they find them."

P-H-S

هكذا من الاجل



CLINTON, CARTER, CEDRAS

Haiti's succession is safer, if not certain

Former President Jimmy Carter has fashioned for American troops an altogether more auspicious *entrée* to Haiti than President Clinton could have hoped for. Acting in the critical last hours before the forcible intervention for which Washington was poised, he prevailed upon the illegal regime of General Raoul Cédras to accept "an early and honourable retirement" by October 15 at the latest. The first American soldiers have now arrived in Port-au-Prince with every indication that numbers will soon swell to nearly 15,000 — without aggressive engagement by Haiti's armed forces. This will please Mr Clinton immeasurably: the anticipated danger to American lives, in a mission that has been misconstrued by many as devoid of interest for America, has been raised by opponents of intervention as a stick with which to beat him. The prospects of eventual acceptance of the exercise by Congress have improved, too, in inverse proportion to the risks American soldiers now run. Sensibly, he has struck a note of caution in emphasising that the "mission still has its risks". Haiti is a troubled and divided country whose security forces and élite stand to gain nothing from the enforced departure of General Cédras.

The agreement concluded by Mr Carter and Emile Jonaissaint, the puppet President installed by the military junta, has not been to everyone's taste. It nowhere mentions Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's legitimate President, by name; and it presses no obligation on General Cédras and his colleagues to leave Haiti. Representatives of numerous élite groups in Miami were quick to castigate it. If the regime was on the verge of being ousted militarily, they ask, why has it been allowed another month in power?

Those who ask this question — which is not merely rhetorical — are owed an answer which works at two levels. The first is that General Cédras will no longer wield power in any meaningful sense. Under the Carter agreement, the Haitian military and police "will work in close cooperation with the American military mission". Evidence of an inclination not to do so will be addressed by those who command, with a Security

Council mandate, the 15,000 troops in Haiti. A repeat of the breach of last year's Governors Island Accord — which functions as a prototype for the Carter agreement — would be impossible to execute.

The second level of analysis is the more complex, as it seeks to address Haiti's problems in the longer term. The American willingness to allow General Cédras until October 15 suggests that Mr Clinton is aware of the fragility — and perilous impermanence — from which a "quick fix" would suffer. Haiti must be reconstructed, both literally and figuratively. To this end, Security Council Resolution 940 obliges Mr Clinton to establish "and maintain" a secure and stable environment in Haiti. This cannot be achieved effectively by an immediate decapitation of the country's institutions.

Yet these same institutions cannot survive unchanged. Although a "general amnesty" has been promised in exchange for the regime's agreement to depart, such an amnesty cannot mean that the structures of terror remain in place. Meticulous attention must be paid to the reform of Haiti's security forces if the country is to be rid of its most virulent poison. Resolution 940 will, to an extent, ensure that Mr Clinton's commitment to Haiti is not ephemeral: the decision to hand over conduct of the mission to the UN rests not with him but with the Security Council. Naturally, if Mr Clinton loses the political will to remain in Haiti, there is no effective way by which he can be held to the letter of Resolution 940.

It is to this complex stage that Mr Aristide will return. It must be the task of the American troops to ensure that the forces which overthrew him in 1991 do not again make Haiti ungovernable. This is not the project of a few weeks, nor even that of a few months. When the Secretary-General does agree with the American commander on the ground that a "secure and stable" environment has indeed been established, the baton of Haiti's regeneration will pass to the UN Mission in Haiti. But Mr Clinton's responsibilities will not cease with this "second phase", on the contrary, the critical test of his vision for a democratic hemisphere will only then begin.

TRUTH AND ITS ENEMIES

There was more to Popper than his politics

Karl Popper, whose death marks an epoch in philosophy, was a self-taught man whose self-confidence would have sustained him anywhere. But he succeeded in Britain because his fellow émigré P.A. Hayek persuaded the London School of Economics to tempt him back from New Zealand exile in 1945. Like Hayek, like Wittgenstein, like Gombrich, he towered over our lucky Jims; he had been steeped in that Viennese civilisation which was "one" among the redeeming miracles of this murderous century. Popper could only remain true to this rich inheritance by abjuring the authoritarian climate of his native Austria, and embracing instead the more tentative culture of "conjectures and refutations" that he found in his adoptive homeland.

Popper is best known for *The Open Society and its Enemies*, which established him at the outset of the Cold War as a champion of Anglo-American individualism against totalitarianism. It was a brave book, but not his best. Although his critique of "oracular philosophy" — Plato, Hegel and Marx — was gleefully appropriated by conservatives and libertarians, Popper was neither. He merely advocated "piecemeal social engineering" rather than collectivism. Popper also had no desire to become one of the "prophets" he had just denounced.

In 1934 a far more original book by Popper had appeared. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery* has enjoyed more lasting influence than the works of the celebrated Vienna Circle, in which it was debated, but to which its author never belonged. For Popper, a disciple of David Hume, the hallowed principle of scientific inquiry,

discovery, did not describe the manner in which discoveries were made. The criterion of truth was falsifiability, not the process, empirical or otherwise, by which a hypothesis was verified. Scientific truth, he said, could never be verified, only disproved.

This made sense to countless scientists, who remain Popper's staunchest adherents. He did not accept the obvious conclusion, that truth is unattainable; indeed, the rest of his long life was devoted to finding a solution to the problem he had posed which did not surrender to the calamitous consequences of relativism.

A.J. Ayer, whose *Language, Truth and Logic* emerged from the same milieu, disapproved of Popper, not least because he saw the Popperians' and their master as dogmatic, even authoritarian. For his part, Popper disdained the linguistic analysis of Ayer and Austin as unworthy of the name of philosophy. While sharing the Anglo-Saxon suspicion of metaphysical systems, he could not abide the fashion for cutting philosophy down to size, depriving it of its central role in Western thought.

Popper dramatised his confrontation with Wittgenstein in his autobiography. After Popper had given a paper in Cambridge at Russell's invitation, Wittgenstein allegedly picked up a poker and gesticulated with it, while demanding an example of a moral rule. "Not to threaten visiting lecturers with pokers," replied Popper, whereupon Wittgenstein abruptly departed. This uncorroborated account may be unfair to Wittgenstein, but does embody a truth about Popper: he was never impressed by great reputations, least of all his own.

'CROATIAN AND MUSLIM'

Rape, realism and the war artist

When *The Times* sponsored the Scottish artist, Peter Howson, to be the British official war artist in Bosnia, we knew that the commission was a risk for all concerned. The result was subsequently a recognised artistic triumph. We duly felt our pride of sponsorship. We also felt, and much more keenly, the terror that Peter Howson experienced and the horror of what we and the Imperial War Museum had asked him to do.

Then came the controversy. Which of the artist's manifold images of modern hatred should be bought by the museum for the national collection? At the exhibition opening the focus of attention was upon a large canvas entitled *Croatian and Muslim* which shows the brutal rape of a woman with her head jammed down a lavatory bowl. It is terrifying in its art and in its impact; and, according to many, the most specific symbol of a savage racial war in which rape and rumours of rape have played so dominant a part.

The artistic record committee of the Imperial War Museum, as is its right, voted by majority not to buy Peter Howson's *Croatian and Muslim*. Instead, for the main image of the Bosnian war by the official war artist, it chose to spend most of its £20,000 allocation of funds on *Cleansed*, a powerful but much less specific picture of bored,

frightened and brutally cheerful refugees squatting by the roadside.

We can sympathise with the dilemma of a museum which exists to record the wars of this century in words and images, weapons and other military memorabilia but which is also a stop on the tourist trail, heavily visited by children and an important educational establishment for teaching history. It is more than an art gallery. Its curators have to tread a fine line between playing Disneyland with guns and telling the truth of war. Its recent re-creation of the Blitz was only a little less uncomfortable than the journey to Lambeth by Underground to visit it but its exhibition of the Holocaust matched its theme at least inasmuch as anything possibly ever can.

Clearly, the picture chosen for the collection fulfils this mixed role more easily than would its more controversial rival. Peter Howson's images of rape, castration, impalings, and the women who glean skulls from the fields are not for the unwary or the squeamish. Just as we considered *Croatian and Muslim* wrong for publication in *The Times*, the painting may not be right for the Imperial War Museum. But it ought to be bought for public display. It would be regrettable if that display were not, at least initially, here in Britain.

How to lessen the costs of housing

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, Some time ago the Government started to shift the basis of social housing subsidies from bricks and mortar towards personal help for tenants, according to need. At the same time private-sector rents for new lettings were deregulated.

This was the right strategy in a free market economy. Personal subsidies are economically more efficient. They also promote occupiers' choice of tenure, landlord and size and quality of accommodation.

There were three predictable consequences: local authority and housing association rents have risen sharply; the decline of the private rented sector has been arrested (although other factors have contributed); the housing benefit bill has increased — so the Chief Secretary to the Treasury is trying to slash it (report, September 6 letter, September 15). Two arms of Government are working from different agendas: a dangerous case of trying to have our cake and eat it?

If the needs of those who cannot otherwise afford adequate housing are to be met, and if private-sector funds are to be tapped for this purpose, income support must be maintained at a level that gives the private sector a chance of getting an adequate return on its investment. It must also have confidence that this will continue to be the case. All political parties have responsibilities here.

We need a fundamental look at income support for both home owners and tenants, with the aim of developing a tenure-neutral system of support to reduce the poverty trap and preferably lead gradually to reduced housing costs in real terms. Employment looks set to remain less secure in all sectors of the economy. A lower proportion of household incomes spent on housing is desirable, and would encourage economic growth.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL PATTISON,
Chief Executive,
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1,
September 16.

Safety in taxis

From Mr W.P.J. Beaumont

Sir, Your report (Travel News, September 8) that few passengers in London taxis bother to wear seatbelts, despite statistics showing that 1,272 passengers were injured in them last year and despite a claim by the British Safety Council that "there is a special need to wear seatbelts in taxis". Your story also explains that the responsibility for wearing seatbelts rests with the passenger and not the driver, as they were specifically excluded from the law when it was framed.

This exclusion is probably fair enough. What I cannot understand, however, is why the authorities still allow taxis to operate without fitted seatbelts. As a parent, I dislike taking children in any vehicle without seatbelts, and you cannot tell which taxis have or have not got belts until you are half way inside them.

The law regarding rear seatbelts has now been in force for three years. This should be enough time for even the most obtuse cabbie to have fitted them and it must be time for the authorities to make this compulsory in all London taxis.

Yours faithfully,
WENTWORTH BEAUMONT,
Flat 7, 8 Drayton Place, SW3,
September 8.

From Ms Laura Tatham

Sir, If taxi seatbelts are widely ignored it is because of their ridiculous design. The "tail" attached to the seat, into whose end the clip on the long, main portion of the belt must be inserted, is far too short.

This means the belt must be fastened "blind" — an operation involving prolonged and uncomfortable squirming in an attempt to locate the slot. Even for a person of average dimensions, like the writer, this effort is frequently fruitless, particularly when wearing a heavy coat. No wonder many of us abandon the struggle.

Yours faithfully,
LAURA TATHAM,
28 Hulton Road, Islington, N1,
September 8.

Absent royals

From Wing Commander P. D. J. Wood, RAF (retd)

Sir, I was pleased to see that two prominent and much respected royals (Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and our own Prince of Wales) were present at the memorial ceremonies to commemorate the Battle of Arnhem — which we lost. But I was saddened that no member of any royal family was personally present at yesterday's thanksgiving service for the Battle of Britain (report, September 19) — which we won.

Despite the serious setback of the former we still managed to win the war; if the latter had been lost we would not.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
P. D. J. WOOD,
2 St John's Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent,
September 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Great names of art and questions of attribution

From Mr Julian Pritchard

Sir, Your leader (September 15) about connoisseurship, prompted by the renewed debate about what Michelangelo, if any, is at the National Gallery, raises the question of public access to these contentious works.

Curators and restorers, working in tandem, have largely superseded the old, sometimes amateur, scholar-connoisseurs who trained and trusted their eyes. Now there is a belief in some short-cut to certainty through conservation science. But the "discoveries" need watching and in some cases challenging — which, as you say, it is made very difficult for outsiders to do.

Standards, even of scholarship, have slipped to a worrying degree. Two years ago the name of the Flemish painter, Robert Campin, was blazoned on hoardings in Trafalgar Square. The public, invited inside to see five paintings "by" this master, found in the small print that there was actually no documentary evidence for linking any of them with his name (and could have been forgiven for thinking privately that they were by four different artists).

The National Gallery's "unquestionable" attribution to Raphael of a small *Madonna with the Pinks* — perhaps by a minor Florentine painter called Coschi — is not only questionable, it is insulting to a great artist. Similarly the "Manchester" *Madonna* and *The Entombment*, works totally different from each other, are both claimed for Michelangelo.

Are we back in 1900, when Bernard Berenson had to tell the lordly owners of old masters that they did not have four Leonardos, as they thought, but one or none? Today the lordly owners

own the public's pictures but are no less concerned to claim proprietorship of the great names of art. Condescendingly they appear to believe that we, the ignorant public, can only be fed with such names.

What is needed, surely, is less curatorial say-so, and much more collaboration with anyone still interested in trying to define the individual imagination. Such shared connoisseurship should also precede and not follow the interventions of restorers.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN PRITCHARD,
42 Bradmore Park Road, W6,
September 15.

From Mr Martin Bailey

Sir, Your report (September 15) that the National Gallery's *The Entombment* may not be by Michelangelo takes insufficient account of recently discovered evidence about his commission for the church of Sant'Agostino in Rome.

In September 1500 Michelangelo was paid to paint an altarpiece for its chapel dedicated to the Pietà. Documents found by Michael Hirst and Alexander Nagel in Roman and Florentine archives, and published in 1981 and earlier this year, show that he abandoned the commission and repaid his fee the following spring, probably because he had been asked to carve the colossal statue of David for Florence cathedral.

The Entombment, which is listed as by Michelangelo in a 1649 inventory of the Farnese collection in Rome and is now in the National Gallery, is probably this half-finished altarpiece. Nevertheless, Michael Daley's theory that the painting is by Bandinelli should still be considered and it will

no doubt be debated when *The Entombment* goes on show in the gallery's Michelangelo exhibition next month.

I feel that your editorial criticising museum curators for excessive secrecy is unfair in the case of the National Gallery. When I recently researched an article on the provenance of *The Entombment*, curator Dr Nicholas Penny was very open in sharing their material. Documents from the gallery's dossier were made available, including correspondence about the negotiations in 1868 over the price of the painting.

As your readers will learn from an article to be published in the October issue of *Apollo* magazine, *The Entombment* almost ended up being used by a carpenter as a table top. In 1846 the panel was rescued by a Scottish painter and pioneer photographer in Rome. He paid £1 for the Michelangelo, smuggled it out of Rome and sold it to the National Gallery.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BAILEY,
c/o Apollo,
29 Chesham Place, SW1,
September 16.

From Mr J. C. Ryder Richardson

Sir, The debate about a Michelangelo painting will be as nothing compared to all the excitement in Trafalgar Square, which will now be full of observers trying to catch a glimpse of the doves as they flutter.

Pity the poor doves!
Yours faithfully,
J. C. RYDER RICHARDSON,
Friary Court, The Friary,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
September 15.

Short children

From the Coordinator, The Wessex Growth Study

Sir, The parents of any short child reading the report (September 13) of the British Medical Association meeting might have been alarmed to learn that "short children score less highly in intelligence tests and are less socially confident".

We would like to reassure all parents and teachers that this is not the case. There is no research, to date, to show that short stature, in a normal, healthy child, growing up in a caring environment, is either an intellectual or a social handicap.

The poor scholarly attainment of the short children in our own community study was shown to be closely linked to the greater prevalence of social deprivation in this group.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA VOSS,
Research Fellow and Coordinator,
The Wessex Growth Study,
Department of Child Health,
Southampton University Hospitals,
Tremona Road,
Southampton, Hampshire,
September 15.

Education in Kerala

From Miss Kalyani Menon

Sir, As Kerala has been an educational leader for about 130 years the high level of literacy need not surprise Margot Norman ("Re-inventing the 11+", September 6).

My ancestor, Diwan T. Shangunny Menon, introduced free primary education there in about 1860 when he was Prime Minister, some years before it was available in England. Many modern schools in Kerala offer free education in English. The children attend in uniform and do homework from the age of four. Although classes are large, teachers write regular comments in each child's book, which is then counter-signed by the parent.

Just after Indian independence in 1947 many people from Kerala, not all men, held senior government posts and they continue to be found in politics, medicine, engineering and other spheres in India, the United States and here. As there is a very large graduate population, many have to seek employment outside the state.

Visitors to Kerala will be surprised to see it described as one of the poorest south Indian states. It is in fact one of the most advanced of Indian states, with a fine education system and probably the nation's highest literacy rate.

Yours faithfully,
KALYANI MENON
(of the family of Thottakatt),
5 Halland Way,
Northwood, Middlesex,
September 6.

It's good to talk

From Mr Nigel V. Brooks

Sir, What price the supposed "information superhighway" when I have today received a letter by second-class post from BT to the effect that they have been unable to contact me by telephone to verify that the telephone line fault I reported had been corrected?

Do I take a course in semaphore in readiness for the next communication?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL V. BROOKS,
213 Boston Road,
Hawthill, W7,
September 14.

Standards at the Bar

From Mr Michael Sherrard, QC

Sir, Your report (September 13) of the outcome of Lord Alexander's committee on standards at the Bar should be welcomed by the profession and the public. It is essential that any barrister going into court has professionally competent advocacy skills. No client and no case, however small, should be the victim of incompetent or inadequate advocacy.

To this end the four Inns of Court have for some time been working together to resume their ancient role of teaching core skills to their students, and practical exercises are already taking place.

The Inns Council thought it premature to set up an Institute of Advocacy as Lord Alexander proposes (although two of the Inns, including Middle Temple, were in favour of doing so). I venture to hope that a unified body such as an Institute (similar bodies are already well established in America and Australia) will

emerge as a single teaching unit. In the meantime each Inn, in broad co-operation with the other three, is working on a substantial programme of advocacy training for all its pupils intending to practise at the Bar.

Middle Temple has set up a unit, Middle Temple Advocacy, of which I am director, which will be offering a free, intensive course in advocacy skills to all its pupils. It has the unqualified support of the Chairman of the Bar, and many senior practitioners and eminent judges have volunteered to take part in the task of establishing in our young barristers the acceptable and competent standards the public and the courts are entitled to expect from all those appearing in the courts in a professional capacity.

Lord Alexander's report, in regard to advocacy at least, is already in process of implementation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SHERRARD,
The Treasury, Middle Temple, EC4,
September 13.

Sight tests

From Professor A. R. Elkington,
President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Sir, The controversy over the number of routine sight tests carried out in recent years (report, September 10) is likely to remain unresolved.

There are figures to support the Minister of Health's claim that as many tests are carried out now as there were before unconditional funding was withdrawn on April 1, 1989 (1987-88, 13.49 million; 1993-94, 13.18 million).

However, for several years prior to 1987 there had been a steady annual increase of approximately 4.5 per cent in the number of tests performed. This trend probably stems both from the progressive increase in the number of elderly in the population and the enhanced public awareness of the importance of detecting eye disease before sight is affected. It seems that this trend has been arrested. Hence the debate on the "missing millions".

It is estimated that half the sight

tests are private; but as figures are not recorded centrally they have to be derived from surveys, which gives limitless scope for argument over sampling errors and so on.

Several groups within the community are recognised as being at special risk of developing glaucoma and need to be examined regularly. These include the elderly and those of Afro-Caribbean descent, neither of which group is eligible for a free sight test, although first-degree relatives, aged over 40, of known sufferers are eligible.

It is generally accepted that if the disease is caught early modern treatment will either arrest or slow the blinding process in most cases. The debate on how this can best be achieved should be based on a careful study of all the available facts.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ELKINGTON,
President,
The Royal College of Ophthalmologists,
17 Cornwall Terrace, NW1,
September 15.

Over the border

From Mr David Lea

Sir, Matthew Parris ("We English are marvellous at crime...", September 12) is, of course, free to ascribe what sense he wishes to his "own tribe — the English".

He really cannot, however, be allowed to get away with including that great Welshman, Lloyd George, within that tribe.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LEA,
109 Albert Street, NW1,
September 12.

All clued up

From Mr Henry Vivian-Neal

Sir, "Gangster and president are indistinguishable (5)" — *Times* crossword clue, September 15. "Capone and Eisenhower appear similar (5)" — *Guardian* crossword clue, September 15.

Fortunately the answers were "alike".

Yours faithfully,
H. VIVIAN-NEAL,
17 Buchanan Gardens,
Kensal Green, NW10,
September 16.

Properties of plants

From Professor Malcolm B. Wilkins

Sir, In my Royal Institution lecture on sensory mechanisms in plants at the British Association meeting in Loughborough (report, September 10) I certainly did not say that plants were intelligent. The aim of my lecture was to demonstrate to the public at large, and especially to young people, that plants possess an array of sophisticated sensory systems comparable to our own. Plants can detect different colours of light, gravity and when they are touched; they can measure time and recognise one another. Some have nervous systems, can count and possess a memory.

I was extremely careful to point out, however, that unlike humans, plants do not make intelligent use of the information gained from their sensory systems but that their reactions to external stimuli are entirely pre-programmed.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM B. WILKINS
(Regius Professor of Botany),
University of Glasgow,
Department of Botany,
Glasgow G12 8QQ,
September 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Setting their sights on better services

Britain's one million blind and partially sighted get a raw deal, reports Widget Finn

Blind people can see nothing. They all read Braille and receive adequate training in mobility and everyday tasks. These are just some of the public's misconceptions about blind people, according to research by the RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind).

"Seeing It Our Way", a report based on these findings which is published today to mark the start of RNIB Week, sets the record straight on some basic facts.

"The vast majority of the public fear losing their sight more than any other sense," says Dr Ian Bruce, director-general of the RNIB. "But this fear is based on negative misconceptions about what life is like for blind or partially sighted people. The main barrier to their independence is lack of services."

Marion Westcott, who became registered blind in 1991, had to find her own way around the maze of services. "There's no communication between the statutory agencies," says Mrs Westcott, "so that the health authority which diagnoses your condition does not pass you on to the Employment Service. No-one told me that magnified vision was available for my computer — I had to find out for myself."

You have to be very determined to get information, says Mrs Westcott, but the degree of assistance also depends on where you live. Moving from Swansea to Kent, where she now runs a mainstream career consultancy, she found a marked difference in the training and help available for visually impaired people.



Ian Bruce (left) and Tony Aston: spearheading an RNIB strategy up to the year 2000

ing and help available for visually impaired people.

Despite widely held views, only 4 per cent of blind people receive rehabilitation and 5 per cent get mobility training. Being registered as blind or partially sighted is a trigger to receiving and benefiting from services, but only 250,880 people are registered, so that at least three-quarters of a million people are likely to be missing out on vital services.

The RNIB, which celebrated its 125th anniversary last year, sees one of its key roles as challenging society's attitudes. In the mid-19th century blindness was considered to be a punishment from God, and blind people were shut up in institutions or patronised by do-gooders. The RNIB was founded by Thomas Armitage, a wealthy doctor who made education, training and employment its priorities.

From the beginning the organisation promoted Braille as a means of reading and writing by touch, and the RNIB is now the largest Braille publisher in Europe. The breakthrough in technology in the past decade has improved communication for blind people through computers which are adapted to use Braille and large print.

New advances in software have made the Windows system possible for blind people using speech synthesisers, while miniaturisation has enabled the development of a belt-worn blinking mobility aid called Walkmate.

Talking books and the talking newspaper on tape are well established, but last year the RNIB launched the UK's first daily electronic newspaper for blind people. Subscribers can now "read" the text of a daily newspaper in Braille or speech after it has been broadcast overnight by teletext on to a personal computer.

The RNIB's involvement in education includes running schools and an FE college for children with disabilities, as well as helping visually impaired children in mainstream education. The organisation has pioneered the use of CD-Rom in schools, which will enable a visually impaired child to access a vast amount of information through a personal computer.

The Employment Network helps visually impaired people to get and keep jobs, advises employers and helps people to set up small businesses. The

RNIB also teaches skills essential for work and daily living at its centres.

The RNIB has set out a strategy for its work up to the year 2000. The prevention and amelioration of visual impairment is an important part of the strategy, says Tony Aston, director of community services, and an eyesare campaign will be launched in 1995 focused mainly on elderly people who are most at risk. The RNIB also plans to put more pressure on the Government to improve NHS treatment for people with low vision.

The RNIB operates 60 services from 44 different sites, but there is still a need to make them more widely available, according to Mr Aston, and to influence the quality of provision for visually impaired people in residential care, as well as for those who want to remain independent.

"By making the general public aware of the barriers which exist for the one million blind and partially sighted people in the UK," says Mr Aston, "we want to encourage improved services which will help them to lead full and active lives."

Details of RNIB Services: 071-388 1266

Computer technology has boosted a simple Victorian reading system

Readers take to the Moon

An invention by a blind doctor in 1847 is helping ten-year-old Donna Wells and her friends to read. Widget Finn writes: "Moon" — named after its inventor, William Moon, whose centenary is being celebrated this year — is a simple raised-line version of the alphabet, suitable for children and adults who have poor tactile or learning abilities.

Donna is a pupil at the RNIB Rushton Hall school in Northamptonshire, a junior school for children who are visually impaired and also have a wide range of additional disabilities affecting mobility, hearing, speech or behaviour.

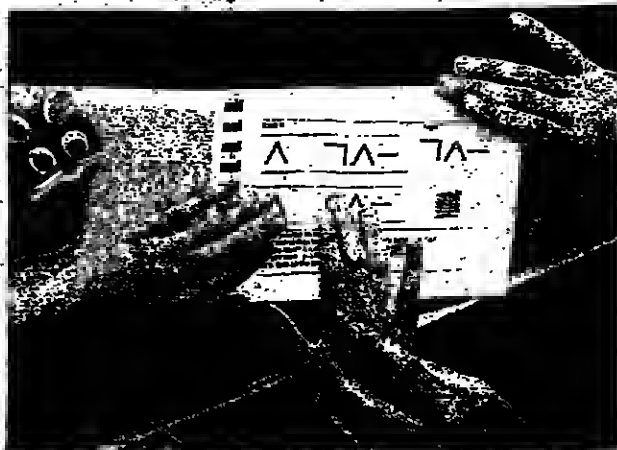
Donna, who is blind with learning difficulties, began working with Moon a year ago. It is a long process, explains her teacher, Steve Warren, but she can now recognise her own name and short familiar words, encouraged by hearing the computer play her favourite tune when she succeeds. The Moon system, says Mr Warren, gives children like Donna their only chance of acquiring a degree of literacy.

Moon is almost unchanged since its invention. Yet despite its simplicity, the system is used by only 1,000 people in the UK. Its disadvantages — the difficulty of printing, the bulk of even a small publication, and the lack of an easy method of writing — meant that Moon lost out to Braille as a universal reading method for blind people.

But 100 years after William Moon's death, his invention is beginning to be more widely used. New developments in electronics make printing Moon symbols on a dot matrix system viable, while plastic film held over a simple grid provides a means — albeit a rather primitive one — to write Moon.

A project called "Moon as a route to literacy" was set up in 1992 by the RNIB and Birmingham University in response to the increasing need for a simple system of reading and writing for blind people.

During the past decade there has been a sharp increase in the number of children entering the educational system with a visual impairment and additional learning difficulties, explains Mike McLinden, who has led the project.



Close-up on the Moon system, based on a raised alphabet

"Many of these children lack the tactile sensitivity or the co-ordination to read Braille," Mr McLinden says. "Moon was a viable alternative, but there were virtually no appropriate teaching materials which could be used in schools."

"As part of the project we developed a variety of resources, currently being pilot-

ed by 16 schools, including a reading scheme for younger children based on the adventures of two Mooncats."

The anniversary of William Moon's death is being marked by the RNIB — the world's largest producer of Moon — by a conference for teachers of the Moon system. An exhibition on the history of Moon, including a letter in Moon

from George VI to troops during the Second World War — will be mounted at the RNIB centres at Peterborough and London.

Moon's main use is for older, newly blind people who find Braille too difficult to feel or learn, or who want to master a method more like ordinary writing.

Edna Stroud became blind eight years ago, at the age of 75. A lifelong book-lover, she was determined to find a method of reading, but her fingers were no longer sensitive enough to respond to the dots of Braille. Then a friend suggested she should try Moon, which she learnt in six half-hour lessons.

Mrs Stroud, whose biography of William Moon, *Blind Faith*, was published in 1992, found a good choice of books and magazines available in Moon, and has even read the Bible "in bits" — the original Moon version ran to 58 volumes. "Moon is so easy to learn that it deserves to be better known," says Mrs Stroud.

Details: Moon Exhibition at RNIB Peterborough, September 19-21, then RNIB London, October 10. Teachers' Conference, RNIB London, September 24 (071-388 1266). *Blind Faith* by Edna Stroud is published by Sessions of York, price £5. RNIB Rushton Hall School, 0536 710506.



Steve Warren teaching Donna Wells — success is acknowledged by a favourite tune

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Despite being almost totally blind, Nicola has qualified as a remedial therapist. She is typical of many blind and partially sighted people in Britain today — people with abilities, who have a lot to offer, at work and in the community.

Blind people don't ask for special treatment — just the chance to lead their own lives. Yet so often they don't get that chance. For example, 7 out of 10 blind people of working age cannot get a job, and thousands miss out on the services they need.

RNIB is working to overcome the prejudices and misunderstandings which many people still have about blind people. We are campaigning to give blind and partially sighted people the right to accessible information in braille or large print or on tape. We offer education and training, and help to provide aids and equipment, so that blind people can live and work independently.

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For further details of the BT Community Programme, please contact our Community Affairs Department, Floor B3, BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 2JL, telephone 071 356 6678.



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If you would like copies of either the 1994 Boots Braille or audio tape Christmas Gift Guides, or if you require any further information, please call (0602) 687708 between 9am and 5pm.



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NEWS

American troops land in Haiti

United States troops landed in Haiti without resistance to begin their mission to restore democracy to the impoverished Caribbean nation.

The first soldiers to land stepped carefully from helicopters, clutching automatic rifles. They were followed by General Hugh Shelton, field commander for the Haiti operation, whose first task was to meet Lieutenant General Raoul Cédras, leader of the military junta. Up to 15,000 troops will be installed in Haiti in the coming days. Pages 1, 14

New talks to end rail dispute

Fresh talks on the rail signal workers' dispute will take place today. It seems likely that a settlement will be reached and that fresh rail strikes set for Thursday and Friday next week, plus a London Underground stoppage, will be averted. Page 1

Boon predicted

John Major believes that Britain stands poised at the threshold of "an economic recovery unlike any we have seen since the Second World War". Page 2

Tennis star dies

Vitas Gerulaitis, the American tennis star, has been found dead in the exclusive American resort of Southampton on Long Island. He was 40. Page 3

Saunders storm

The Government faced blistering attacks from all sides over its City regulatory system in the wake of the landmark European Commission ruling that Ernest Saunders, former Guinness chief, was denied a fair trial. Page 4

Smoking study

Smoking in Britain has stopped falling and shows no sign of renewing its decline. Cancer scientists predict that a million of today's under-age smokers will die in middle age. Page 6

Scotland invaded

For the first time in decades, the populations of the Western Isles, Orkney and the Shetlands have begun to grow: the English have invaded. Page 7

A thief's delight

Tests show that some of the best-selling cars in Britain can be broken into within seconds, despite the presence of high-technology locks and alarm systems. Page 8

Scout leader claims unfair dismissal

A Scout leader sacked from his post after a quarrel with senior officers has taken his case before an industrial tribunal, claiming unfair dismissal. The case — thought to be the first to involve the Scouting movement — will test whether unpaid volunteers are protected by employment laws or fall beyond their scope. Page 4

Lib Dem tax plans

Income tax for up to six million low-paid workers could be cut to 10p in the pound, Liberal Democrat leaders told their conference as they performed a belated U-turn on policy. Pages 1, 9

Bosnian air threat

The UN commander in Bosnia has threatened both Serb and Muslim forces with airstrikes after the worst fighting in Sarajevo since February. Page 10

Boost for Kohl

Helmut Kohl has been given an electoral boost with figures and forecasts suggesting that the German economy is set to make a strong recovery. Page 11

Swedish dilemma

Sweden's Social Democrats seem likely to form a minority government, but financial markets already fear they will be unable to introduce much-needed austerity measures. Page 11

Saudis to privatise

Saudi Arabia has asked for Britain's help in privatising large sections of its economy. It has given strong assurances that British firms will remain key suppliers of military goods. Page 15

Syrian peace mission

The United States begins a new peace mission between Syria and Israel today amid disclosures that the two sides have been having secret contacts. Page 15



Mathew Taylor, Liberal Democrat MP, centre, testing Brighton's water with two "Surfers Against Sewage". Conference reports, Page 9

BUSINESS

Heron offer: A group of businessmen, led by industrialist Steven Green, has proposed a £142 million bid for up to 51 per cent of Heron International. Page 25

GrandMet sale: Grand Metropolitan is selling its American pet food business to Nestlé for \$510 million and restructuring its worldwide drinks business and European food operations at a cost of £280 million. Page 25

Markets: Shares in London made a firm start with the FT-SE 100 index rising 14.0 to 3,079.1. The pound fell 1.53 cents to \$1.5682, but edged up to DM2.4354. Page 28

SPORT

Football: Manchester United may be in trouble fielding a weakened team in the Coca-Cola Cup. They have seven reserve players on call for the tie at Port Vale. Page 48

Motor-racing: Damon Hill will drive for the Williams Renault team again next year. It will not be revealed until the end of the season whether Nigel Mansell is to join him. Page 48

Cricket: The first-class season trickled to a watery close, with rain allowing only 14 overs to be bowled in the nine Britannic Assurance county championship matches yesterday. Page 48

Voodoo island: Graham Greene said it was "impossible to deepen the night" of Papa Doc Duvalier's reign of terror in Haiti. Ian Thomson meets Gerard Codry, Smith, the last British ambassador to the Caribbean country. Page 16

A cut above: The first of four articles by Walter Ellis on individuals involved in Northern Ireland's Troubles. Page 16

Brainwaves: Founded 50 years ago, a wartime unit has become internationally renowned for its discoveries about the human mind. Page 17

Venetian splendour: As the Royal Academy opens its blockbuster show of Venetian art, Richard Cork explains why the economic and political dissolution of the republic was accompanied by a burst of cultural brilliance. Page 39

Singers celebrate: The world premiere of a new work by Xenakis was the highlight of a concert celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the BBC Singers. Page 39

Castanet time: Sadler's Wells Theatre resounds to guitars, castanets and the stamping of feet as Cumbre Flamenco opens its season. Page 40

Speed king: Blasting through 27 songs in 90 frantic minutes at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, Frank Black — formerly of the Pixies — left the impression of a gifted singer-songwriter in a perpetual hurry. Page 40

Toronto variety show: From Albert Finney as a bus conductor to high-brow erotica from Taiwan, the Toronto Film Festival has something for everyone. Page 41

New Berkoff: Two new plays by Steven Berkoff — one rejoicing in the characteristic title *Brighton Beach Boombies* — offer bracing fare to the resolute theatregoer at the Riverside Studios. Also reviewed today is *The Provoked Wife*, the first production by the new Touring Partnership, which aims to take top-class casts round the major regional theatres of Britain. Page 41



Simon Jenkins, distinguished journalist, author — and leading columnist in *The Times*



Lynne Truss, reviewer, discusses the return of *ITV's Soldier, Soldier* on the television page



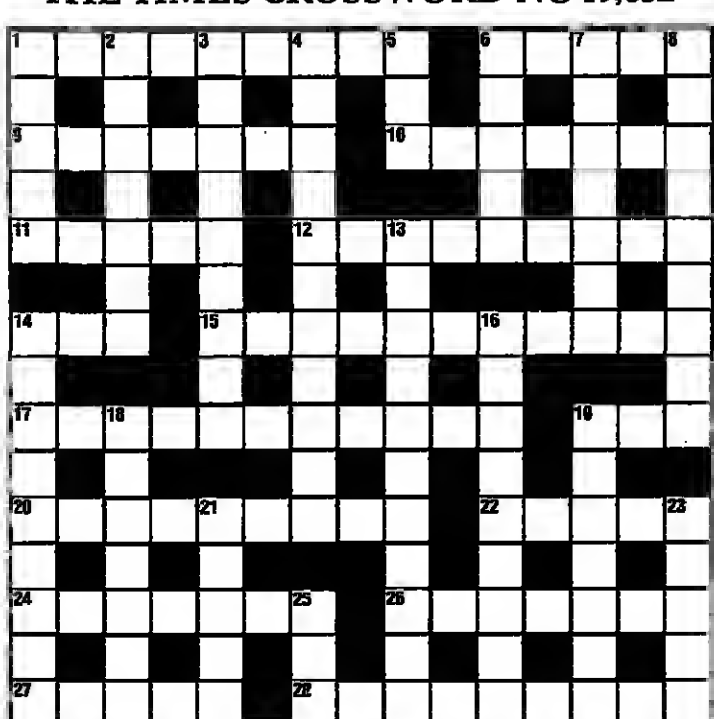
Alan Coren, humourist, views the world this week from the wider shores of Cricklewood



Brenda Maddox, columnist, on why she has changed her mind about the Welsh language channel

TOP WRITERS IN THE TIMES TODAY

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,652



ACROSS

- 1 One getting down in reckless leaps from line of cliffs in America (9).
- 6 Amatory ailment ordered for Orsino's starter (5).
- 9 Helping poor relations (7).
- 10 Expire in gasp, hanging (7).
- 11 Tail of beetle thin and black (5).
- 12 Modern bondsmaid with it, we hear (9).
- 14 Wear a flower (3).
- 15 Poor reviewer of "Circe" — artist put out (11).
- 17 Fire prevention device? (6-5).
- 19 Low-flying wisecrack (3).
- 20 Dread her coming back in annex (9).
- 22 Joey by the way needs a place to settle (5).
- 24 I am one philanthropist to follow (7).

DOWN

- 26 Ringed sea-mew in flight is amazing (7).
- 27 Brute put back grass-circles (5).
- 28 Typing unit's work a major achievement (9).
- 1 Chaplain's daughter in trim clothing (5).
- 2 Rent during university vacation is a disappointment (3-4).
- 3 Single-decker seen sailing down the Strand, say (4-5).
- 4 Garbo seen in front gallery (5-6).
- 5 Weak person's bribe (3).
- 6 Unexpected gift, say, of a landed estate (5).
- 7 Rattles shaken for promising young actress (7).
- 8 See scene of the crime in Eliot's play (9).
- 13 Madam Butterfly (7,4).
- 14 Girl's on equal terms, getting distinction (9).
- 16 Hateful, hot barren resort (9).
- 17 Dressy, female work? Rubbish! (7).
- 19 Sherry not opened, sadly, in the bar (7).
- 21 Source of inspiration for central operators (5).
- 23 Note to include border topic (5).
- 25 Naval rating in a thousand following the queen (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,651

SKETCHING AOSTIA
T L H N A N E S
A D A M A N T R E D R E S S E
T P R N R S E
I D E A L I N E G A N T
O A G T W W
N A U T I L U S A M I N D
E N E C A M I
R E A R C O N S I D E R
S M A R N S
S T A T E M E N T A W A S H
T S R H E S L A
A T H E T E N A S T I E R
Y E L A T I E
S I A D I L A R I S T I N A N T E

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Herts & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Gloucester, Avon, Somerset	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
North, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lines & Humberside	713
Oxford & Bucks	714
Gloucester & Cotswolds	715
N.W. England	716
W. & S. Yorks & Dalms	717
N.E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lowland & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Strathclyde & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Cathness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	733
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Jersey 17C (63F); Lowest day temp: Loch Glasnacloch, Highland, SC (48F); Highest rainfall: Three, Herts, 0.5in; Highest sunshine: Margate, Kent, 6.9hr.

FORECAST

General: most of England and Wales will be rather cloudy with showers. Eastern areas could see some more persistent rain. South Wales and the Midlands, where there will be shelter from the brisk northwest wind, are likely to see some brighter spells. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be mostly cloudy with some showers but in the west these should become lighter and less frequent later in the day. It will be windy on exposed coasts and hills. In all areas it will feel quite cold.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, Central N, NE England: cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind north, moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 14C (57F).

Central S England, Midlands, S Wales: bright spells and showers. Wind northwest, moderate. Cool. Max 15C (59F).

Channel Isles, SW England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: rather cloudy with showers. Wind northwest, fresh. Chilly. Max 15C (59F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: cloudy with a few showers. Wind north to northwest, moderate. Rather cold. Max 13C (55F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: bright spells. Showers tending to die out later. Wind north-west, fresh. Chilly. Max 15C (59F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: showers, mostly dying out later. Some bright spells developing. Wind north to northwest, mainly fresh. Max 13C (55F).

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: remaining cool and unsettled with showers and brighter spells in most areas.

AROUND BRITAIN

4 hrs to 6 pm	Thunder	Drizzle	Cloud	Drizzle	Light	Snow	Storm	Thunder	Drizzle	Cloud	Drizzle	Light	Snow	Storm
Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Anglesey	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Cardiff	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Exeter	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
London	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Manchester	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Nottingham	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Sheffield	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Southampton	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wolverhampton	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
York	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

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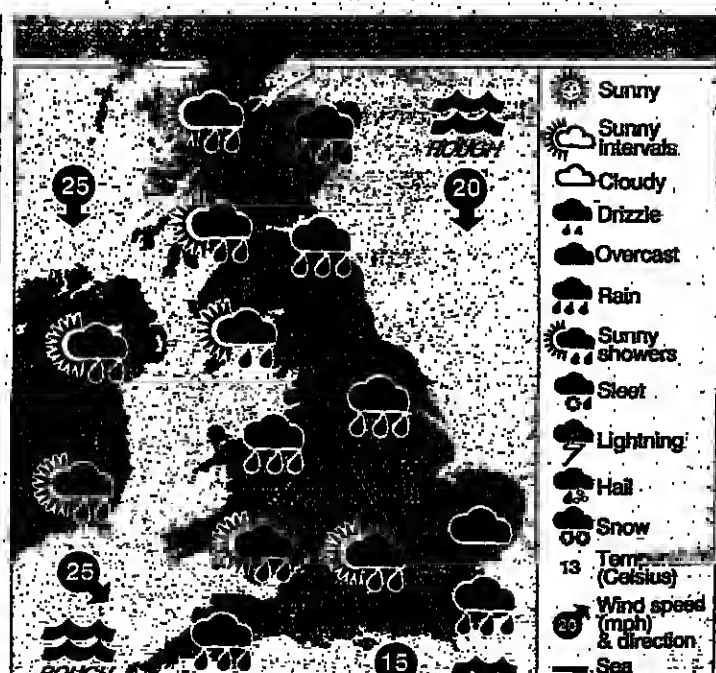
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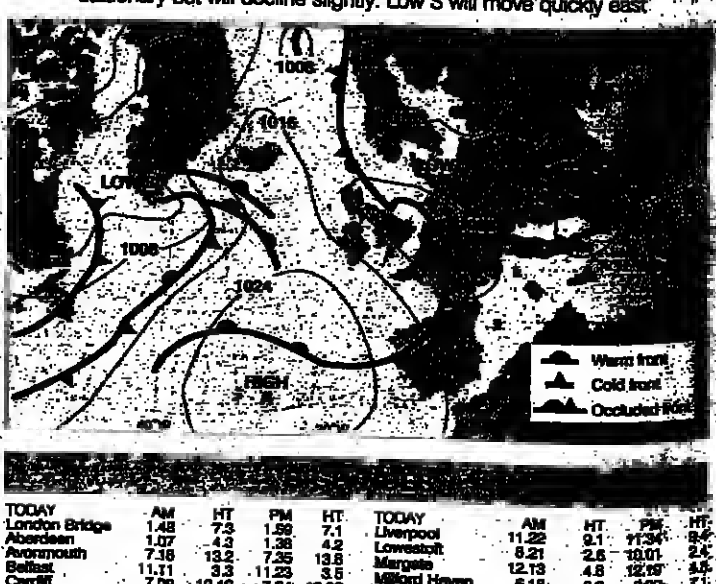
Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: remaining cool and unsettled with showers and brighter spells in most areas.

AROUND BRITAIN

4 hrs to 6 pm	Thunder	Drizzle	Cloud	Drizzle	Light	Snow	Storm	Thunder	Drizzle	Cloud	Drizzle	Light	Snow	Storm
Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea	Temp	Wind	Sea
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Anglesey	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Cardiff	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Exeter	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
London	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Manchester	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Nottingham	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Sheffield	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Southampton	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wolverhampton	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
York	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12



Changes to the chart below from noon tomorrow: complex low D will move southwards with little change in central pressure. High A will remain stationary but will decline slightly. Low S will move quickly east.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.45	7.3	1.52	7.1	London Bridge	1.45	7.3	1.52	7.1
Aberdeen	7.16	13.2	7.26	4.8	Aberdeen	7.16	13.2	7.26	4.8
Manchester	11.11	3.3	11.23	3.8	Manchester	11.11	3.3	11.23	3.8
Cardiff	7.08	12.16	7.34	12.28	Cardiff	7.08	12.16	7.34	12.28
Nottingham	5.14	5.3	5.27	5.5	Nottingham	5.14	5.3	5.27	5.5
Sheffield	5.18	5.1	5.11	5.5	Sheffield	5.18	5.1	5.11	5.5
Glasgow	12.58	4.9	1.18	4.7	Glasgow	12.58	4.9	1.18	4.7
Edinburgh	11.57	4.0	1.18	4.7	Edinburgh	11.57	4.0	1.18	4.7
Southampton	10.25	5.4	10.37	5.7	Southampton	10.25	5.4	10.37	5.7
Wolverhampton	8.13	7.57	8.44	7.25	Wolverhampton	8.13	7.57	8.44	7.25
Cardiff	6.02	6.17	6.16	6.40	Cardiff	6.02	6.17	6.16	6.40
London	6.19	6.9	6.25	6.8	London	6.19	6.9	6.25	6.8
Wolverhampton	2.37	5.5	5.25	5.4	Wolverhampton	2.37	5.5	5.25	5.4

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هكذا من الاجل

LAW 33-37

What is the truth about Aunt Flo's death?

ARTS 39-41

Venetian art comes in splendour to the Royal Academy

SPORT 42-48

Hendry intent on starting new season as Master

A DOGGED DRIVE TO SUCCEED
Small business 30

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1994

Ronson to stay on in Heron bid plan

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

GERALD RONSON, the controversial entrepreneur who created the Heron group, is likely to remain at the centre of its affairs if a £142 million cash or shares offer to the indebted property group's bond and shareholders is accepted.

The offer for Heron International is to be mounted by HNV Acquisition, a Cayman-based vehicle for a consortium of wealthy investors headed by American financier Steven Green, a specialist in company turnarounds who heads the Samsonite luggage business as well as a property company. Heron's board recommends it as fair and reasonable and has issued a warning that the "highly probable" alternative is receivership or bankruptcy for some or all of the Heron companies.

HNV, advised by Swiss Bank Corporation, plans to keep Heron operating as a European property developer and investor rather than simply to sell its assets, which are mainly in Britain, Spain and France. The HNV board would be led by Mr Green and by Steven Pink, his former director and former head of an American glass firm. It will offer executive directorships to Mr Ronson, who was kept on as Heron's chief executive by the banks, and to Alan Goldman, his deputy.

Negotiations with HNV have been going on since it was declared the preferred bidder in June, following the swift collapse of Heron's 1993

financial restructuring when it could not pay interest to bondholders. The restructuring had left banks and bondholders controlling all but 5 per cent of Heron after they exchanged their debts for a combination of new senior debt, junior debt and equity. The HNV cash offer offers senior debt holders 45p in the pound, junior debt 6p, and 0.75p per share. It would crystallise losses to bondholders, and 80 banks, led by Barclays, of about £1 billion of their original £1.2 billion debt.

The HNV offer is conditional on waivers of conditions by a further group of bankers to Heron's British and Spanish subsidiaries, and that they promise not to call in their money. This is the only likely stumbling block. The refusal by these banks to allow money from disposals to pass through to the parent company precipitated the failure of the restructuring.

Gary Klesch, of Klesch & Co, one of the aggrieved bondholders, said: "HNV's offer was disappointing and that receivership was not a bad alternative when values are this low." The offer requires 75 per cent backing in votes to be cast at bondholders' meetings.

Bond and equity holders could be entitled to about 90 per cent of the new company if all opted for shares but would be scaled down to ensure that the consortium retained 51 per cent control. The 5 per cent of Heron retained under the 1993



Gerald Ronson, pictured with his wife Gail, will be offered an executive directorship if the HNV offer is accepted

restructuring by Mr Ronson, his foundation and family trusts, would become virtually worthless. But the new board plans incentive schemes for executive directors.

The HNV consortium brings together limited partnerships backed by a series of wealthy US-based families, including that of Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, which owns The Times; Craig McCaw, founder of the eponymous cellular communications company and members of the family of

Michael Milken, the disgraced former junk bond king. By writing down debt and substituting equity shares, the deal would transform the balance sheet of Heron International, leaving it with net assets of about £200 million. That compares with a deficit of £172 million after a further net loss of £92 million for the year to end March, mainly from interest and exchange losses on foreign properties. Remaining debt would fall from £535 million to about £200 million. HNV hopes to win a London

stock market listing "at an appropriate stage". The group inherited by HNV would, however, be a pale shadow of that of the late 1980s, when it was one of Britain's largest and most profitable private corporations. The collapse of a savings and loan investment in America, compounded by sharp falls in property markets, were already threatening the group when Mr Ronson was jailed in 1990 for his part in the Guinness affair.

Following his release after

six months, Heron fought the advancing threat of insolvency through a series of disposals. These included the chain of petrol stations which Mr Ronson had pioneered, the Suzuki Motors franchise, housebuilding and distribution businesses, leaving only a few luxury car dealerships apart from property. Disposals of property were bigger but ran into problems when the Spanish market fell drastically just as the refinancing, which cost £36 million in fees, was being put together.

The fragility of consumer confidence in the economy was underlined yesterday by the latest Gallup poll, showing confidence turned lower again in September even before the base rate rose.

The poll, conducted between September 1 and 12, with base rates being raised on the last day and thus too late to affect it, dashed the Government's hope that consumers were regaining composure after the recession.

Those expecting the economy to worsen in the next year outnumbered those expecting it to improve by 3 per cent. In August, optimists outnumbered pessimists by 1 per cent.

Halifax raises loan rate to 8.1%

By ROBERT MILLER AND JANET BUSH

HALIFAX, Britain's largest mortgage lender, at 1.8 million borrowers, yesterday announced an increase in its mortgage rate to 8.1 per cent from 7.64 per cent. The average £50,000 Halifax repayment mortgage will cost almost £13 a month more.

The move by Halifax, which will now be followed by most mortgage lenders, was sparked by last week's half of a percentage point rise in the base rate to 5.75 per cent.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive, said higher rates for the Halifax's 12 million savers will follow "in due course". Barclays Bank matched the Halifax by raising its rate to 8.1 per cent.

But there was good news for savers, who outnumber mortgage borrowers in the UK by five-to-one. National Savings said it will introduce new issues of its fixed-interest products from today. The 42nd issue of National Savings Certificates will offer a guaranteed tax-free return of 5.85 per cent a year, if held for five years. The Series 2 of Pensioners' Guaranteed Income bonds now offer a gross return of 7.5 per cent a year guaranteed for five years.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3079.1	(+14.0)
Yield	4.10%	
FT-SE All share	1543.44	(+3.93)
Nikkei	19554.11	(-242.19)
New York	3948.16	(+14.81)*
Dow Jones	472.84	(+1.85)*
S&P Composite		

US RATE

Federal Funds	4.00%	(4.00%)
Long Bond	90 1/2%	(90 1/2%)
Yield	7.77%	(7.76%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	99	(99)

STERLING

New York	1.5667*	(1.5750)
London		
\$	1.5665	(1.5837)
DM	2.4312	(2.4305)
FF	2.3110	(2.3089)
Sfr	2.0202	(2.0137)
Yen	154.58	(156.36)
£ Index	79.6	(79.8)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.5521*	(1.5445)
FF	5.3043*	(5.2810)
Sfr	1.2680*	(1.2629)
Yen	98.61*	(98.95)
£ Index	62.3	(62.0)

Tokyo close Yen 98.84

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$15.90	(\$15.80)
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GOLD

London close	\$390.65	(\$390.65)
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* denotes midday trading price

Tunnel access

Eurotunnel will open its "Overture" car-carrying passenger shuttle service for shareholders and opinion-formers on October 3, but other customers will still have to wait at least several weeks to go under the Channel. Page 29

Tighter training

The National Training Council for Vocational Qualifications has ordered a 30-man hit-squad into action to try to ensure that even standards are maintained and that sharp business practices are ended. Page 26

Low-wage builders targeted

By COLIN NARBROUGH

BRITISH building workers may be prevented from undercutting German construction workers by Chancellor Kohl's plan to use his country's presidency of the European Union to prevent foreigners from working for low wages on German sites.

There are about 60,000 British building workers currently employed on German construction sites, according to Werner Kohler, chief spokesman for IG BSE, the German construction workers' union.

The pledge to the German cabinet follows heavy lobbying by IG BSE and the national association for self-employed craftsmen for Bonn to stop cut-price British and Portuguese workers from "distorting" Germany's post-unification construction market.

German workers' pay and social costs average DM60-65 an hour, against DM45 for British labour. Germany, like Britain, has no minimum wage rules. Both have blocked EU rules on pay and employment practices in the industry.

Thousands to lose jobs in GrandMet shake-up

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

GRAND Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, is shedding an estimated 4,000 jobs worldwide in a £280 million reorganisation of its spirits division and its European food business. Meanwhile, the US pet food manufacturer Nestlé for £510 million.

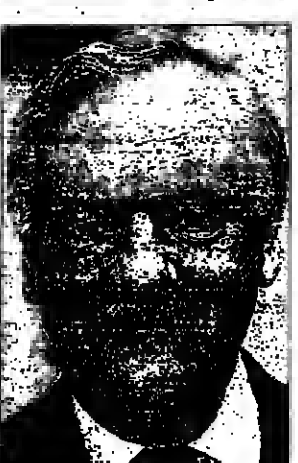
The group said the reorganisation, which will involve the closure of several distilleries, will save £90 million a year when completed, money it plans to spend marketing its brands, such as Smirnoff vodka and Häagen Dazs ice cream. It did not say how many closures the reorganisation would entail but did not deny estimates of 4,000.

The £280 million provision will be included in the group's figures for the year to September 30. About half the provision will be used within IDV, the spirits division. Of the remainder, £55 million relates to the European food business and £32 million for a reorganisation at Burger King. Property write-offs and disposals will soak up another £28 million and a cost-cutting programme at head office £20 million.

The latest provision comes

only a year after the group set aside £175 million to cover a reorganisation in the US food business. Gerald Corbett, finance director, said the new initiative took care of the rest of the group's businesses. "We have now covered the portfolio and we are clean cut for the second half of the 1990s. We move forward into next year with everything buttoned down and in place."

The reorganisation will cost about £160 million, although the expense will be offset by about £60 million of property



Lord Sheppard: new focus

disposals. The rest of the provision will be used in asset write-offs. The damage that the provision will do to GrandMet's profits this year will be lessened by a £200 million profit the group made on the sale of Alpo yesterday. It bought Alpo in 1980 from Liggett, but the business has not suited GrandMet since it is only the seventh largest food business in the US with a 6 per cent market share. GrandMet aims at owning the largest or second largest food business in every area in which it competes.

Lord Sheppard, chairman, said the disposal was part of a multifaceted conglomerate to a highly focused food and drinks business. Along with news of the disposal George Ball, GrandMet's chief executive, said that the group's trading was strong and it expected to show an improvement in profits before exceptional in the year to September 30. He warned that profits at IDV would be lower due to US destocking and "uneven trading" in Spain and Germany.

Pennington, page 27

Deposed directors fight back

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100 Lloyd's professionals are joining forces to take their own legal action having been thrown off the main names' action groups.

This comes after moves by several leading action groups to expel directors of Lloyd's agencies who are suing their own companies because of fears they may jeopardise millions of pounds through the courts.

As a result, the directors were excluded from sharing in any awards made by the courts. David Tiplady, a partner at D J Freeman, the law firm, said: "These people are not taking this lying down. They are fighting back."

The first band to make this move is likely to comprise 70 directors thrown off the Gooda Walker Action Group. □ Standard & Poor's, the US rating agency, said that one in four surviving Lloyd's syndicates was below average financial strength. Of the 159 syndicates ranked in terms of financial stability, five were given the highest-risk rating of one crown, denoting "weak" financial characteristics. A further 35 syndicates were deemed "below average".

MAI's 10% advance fails to satisfy City

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

LORD Hollick, managing director of MAI, whose £292 million takeover bid for Anglia Television is at the centre of the furore over Lord Archer's share dealings, yesterday disappointed the City with a 10 per cent rise in profits.

The media-to-finance group's pre-tax profits rose to \$87.9 million, from \$80.2 million, in the year to June 30, at the bottom end of analysts' expectations.

Earnings were hit by an unexpectedly large write-off relating to disposal of Safeguard Insurance Services.

Anglia Television, acquired in March, contributed £5 million at pre-tax level. Lord Hollick said that integration of the business with Meridian Broadcasting, the ITV franchise holder for the south and south east of England, was going smoothly. "We said at the time of the purchase that we expected no earnings dilution in its

first full year and we are slightly ahead of our target," he said.

Lord Hollick would not comment on fresh claims that Dr Mary Archer and the other Anglia directors had been warned in writing almost two years ago that neither they nor their spouses should deal in Anglia shares in the first three months of the financial year, starting on January 1. Lord Archer placed orders to buy 50,000 in January. Suggestions that Dr Archer was

specifically warned about directors' obligations brought new calls for the trade department to issue its report on Lord Archer's deal. Labour said too many questions lacked answers.

MAI media activities made pre-tax profits of £8.7 million (£3.5 million loss). The biggest contributors to group profits were wholesale broking and money dealing, with profits of £16.2 million (£55.9 million). A final dividend of 5.8p (4.9p) makes 7.8p (6.9p), up 13 per cent.

Government crackdown on training standards

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TRAINING chiefs are to hire a 30-strong hit squad of quality inspectors to crack down on uneven standards in Britain's new training regime.

The National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) has also been given government backing to crack down on suspected "sharp practice" between some training providers and agents who assess the quality of courses.

Funding for a big push to drive up the standards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) was confirmed by James Paice, the junior employment minister, in a letter to Rhodri Morgan, shadow Welsh spokesman.

Mr Morgan has called for bodies awarding qualifications to be banned from taking part in training. Although the majority of bodies awarding qualifications are highly respected, including City & Guilds and the Royal Society of Arts, Mr Morgan said a conflict of interest was possible where award bodies were assessing the work of sister organisations.

The fragmentation of the training system, much of it

taking place in the workplace, has also provoked charges that training, particularly at lower levels, is too narrow, and lacks the depth of theory needed to make skills portable. Replying to Mr Morgan, Mr Paice acknowledged that until now, "NCVQ has adopted a low profile in its quality assurance role". But he added: "This is about to change."

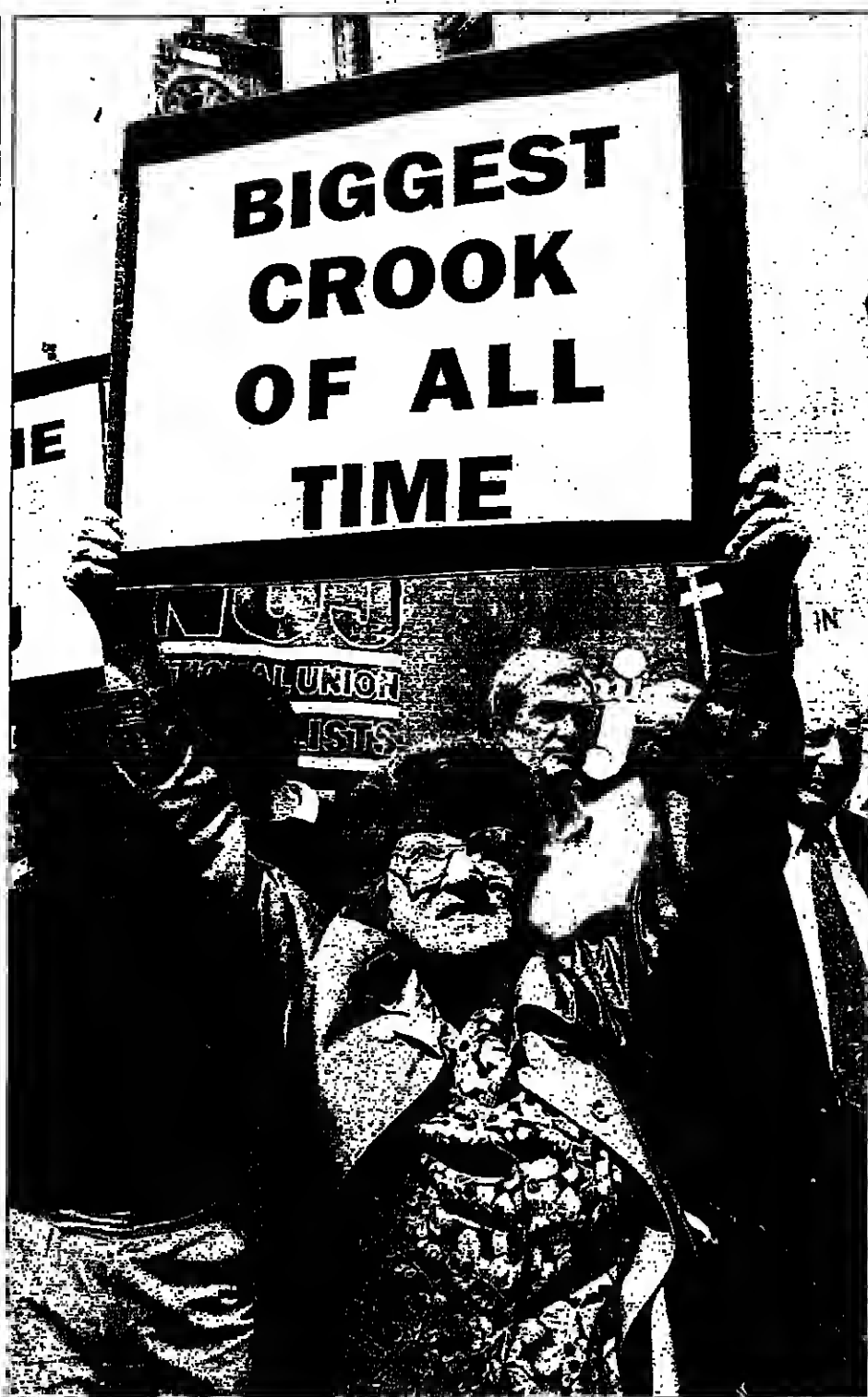
Funding for a much stronger national council field force will begin in the next financial year, he said.

"While the detailed arrangements have yet to be decided, we have in mind about 30 full-time staff who will act as the eyes and ears of the NCVQ," he said. These staff would be responsible for investigating any reported abuse. "We want to eliminate sharp practice of the sort you suspect," he said.

And he signalled that the Government is no longer willing to watch the credibility of its training reforms damaged by criticism over standards. "I look to the National Council for Vocational Qualifications to discharge their monitoring and quality assurance functions with rigour and to deal with any offenders promptly and effectively," he said.

Critics of the National Vocational Qualifications system have suggested that training for tradesmen and managers alike lacks the theoretical basis needed to help them to tackle new jobs or changing tasks. They have also suggested that standards are inconsistent between tasks, and that the qualifications, focused on competence in the workplace, exclude the jobs from training opportunities.

But they believe the system can be improved. Geoff Armstrong, of the Institute of Personnel and Development, said: "We are very much in favour of the National Vocational Qualifications system because we believe that competence based qualifications are best calculated to develop the economy."



Maxwell pensioners demonstrating before attending a mass rally in London

Maxwell deal 'may fall short by £100m'

By JON ASHWORTH

AN IMPENDING settlement for Maxwell pensioners could fall up to £100 million short of covering their full pension entitlement, advisers have said. Trustees are thought to be preparing to pursue outstanding insurance claims in an effort to reach the £400 million required.

A settlement raising the bulk of the sum could be a matter of weeks away. Negotiations led by Sir Peter Webster, a former High Court judge, are expected to result in payments of between £200 million and £300 million from a mixture of City firms, including Coopers & Lybrand, auditor of Maxwell Communications Corporation, and Smith New Court, the broker.

Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Samuel Montagu and Banque Nationale de Paris are also expected to contribute. Neil Cooper, Robson Rhodes, liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management, which ran the funds plundered by Robert Maxwell, is thought to have used the threat of imminent legal action to encourage a pooled settlement.

Alan Fishman, of Clay & Partners, an independent trustee to the Maxwell private company pension funds, said the City initiative, if successful, would go a long way to making up the shortfall.

Mr Fishman would not be drawn on the size of a possible shortfall. However, it is thought that at least £100 million may have to be pursued through a variety of other initiatives.

The pursuit of outstanding insurance claims would be one option open to trustees.

Alexander urges China to strengthen City ties

By COLIN NARBROUGH

LORD Alexander of Weedon, the chairman of National Westminster Bank, yesterday urged China to reinforce ties with institutions from the City of London as a way of securing access to the capital and allied services needed to support the huge economy's rapid growth.

In a speech to a seminar in Peking, Lord Alexander, who

is heading a 30-strong mission for British Invisibles (BI), the lobby organisation for Britain's service industry exporters, said existing links between China and Britain had enabled economic relations to grow to mutual advantage. "We firmly believe we can build upon those links to develop co-operation to a much higher level," he said.

Keen to underline that Brit-

ish Invisibles is looking beyond the present political bitterness between Peking and London over the future of Hong Kong, he called for a commitment to long-term relationships, mutual trust and mutual confidence.

The BI mission, which includes Rupert Pennant-Rea, deputy Governor of the Bank of England, is seeking to highlight to Chinese officials

and businessmen the range of financial and legal services London can offer, as well as the practical help it can give China in setting up a modern market system.

NatWest, which opens a representative office in Shanghai, designated as China's financial centre, this week, was a lead issuer on a Chinese bond as long ago as 1913, Lord Alexander said.

Allied Leisure plans financial statement

ALLIED Leisure, the troubled tenpin bowling to nightclub group, will clarify its trading and financial position by the end of this week, after several months of a standstill agreement with its banks. The company shocked the City in March when it accompanied a provision-driven £16.1 million plunge into the red at the interim stage with news that it had breached its banking covenants and that Richard Carr, Allied's founder and chief executive, and two other directors had left.

Allied said that the company's formal standstill agreement with its banks over capital repayments and the continuation of its banking facilities will be extended from yesterday until Friday to assist it in continuing with its restructuring plans. The company will announce its preliminary results for the 48 weeks to June 19 on that day, at which stage a further announcement will be made. Allied Leisure shares eased 2p to 23p.

Lombard deal for HSBC

HSBC Holdings, the banking and financial services group that owns Midland Bank, has agreed to acquire a stake in Lombard Insurance, which conducts general insurance business in Singapore and Hong Kong, from Continental Corp, the American banking group. Terms of the acquisition by HSBC's Carlingford Gibbs subsidiary were not disclosed. HSBC said the purchase was expected to be completed early in 1995. The combined business will have assets in excess of HK\$500 million, premium income of more than HK\$1.4 billion and a staff of 350.

Tempos, page 28

Edinburgh Fund up 99%

EDINBURGH Fund Managers increased its pre-tax profits 99 per cent to £7.39 million in the six months to July 31, in spite of a fall of £200 million in funds under management to £3.8 billion. The interim dividend was raised 2p to 6p a share and the company has promised to recommend a final dividend of not less than last year's level of 16p a share. Earnings rose sharply to 26.7p a share, against 13.8p last time. However, Colin Ross, chairman, gave warning that this was because of unit trust trading profits which, he said, were unlikely to recur in the second half of the year.

Bemrose purchase

BEMROSE Corporation, the printer of security and promotional material, is acquiring Incentives Two, which sells promotional products, for an initial £2.3 million, with a further profit-related £1.35 million due later. In the year to the end of January, Incentives Two earned profits of £459,000 before tax, adjusted for non-recurring items, on sales of £5.3 million. Bemrose also announced a rise in pre-tax profits to £2.7 million (£2.5 million) in the six months to July 2, helped by earlier acquisitions. The interim is increased to 4.7p a share from an adjusted 4.09p.

Hobson sells division

HOBSON, the former shell company that bought the Co-op's food manufacturing business this year, is selling its packing division business, which mixes and packs a wide range of baking products, to Yorkshire Food Group for £10.1 million. Yorkshire is paying an initial cash sum of £7.58 million. Hobson will retain about £2.5 million of trade debtors. The packing business made pre-tax profits of £238,000 on sales of £2.2 million in the year to January 3. Net assets at the year end were £3.85 million. Tempos, page 28

Roxboro payout pledge

ROXBORO, the specialist electronics group floated on the stock market late last year, has promised shareholders a 3p final for the current year. Yesterday the company announced a maiden interim of 1.5p for the six months to July 1 after taxable profits increased to £4.5 million (£3 million). Earnings were 8.1p a share, rising from 5.7p. Harry Tee, chief executive, said: "Group margins showed further gains, with the computer businesses demonstrating their resilience. The group outlook for the second half is encouraging."

Notice to Customers

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

National Savings Certificates of the 41st Issue and 7th Index-linked Issue were withdrawn from sale on 19 September 1994.

The 42nd Issue is on sale from 20 September*. It offers a guaranteed and tax-free return of 5.85% pa compound when held for five years. The minimum purchase is £100 and the maximum holding £10,000.

The 8th Index-linked Issue is on sale from 20 September*. It offers a guaranteed and tax-free return of 3.0% pa compound in addition to index-linking when held for five years. The minimum purchase is £100 and the maximum holding £10,000.

In addition to the normal holding limits, up to £20,000 may be reinvested into Reinvestment Certificates of each Issue from any mature National Savings Certificate or Yearly Plan Certificate.

The new Issues of Savings Certificates are available for any amount between the holding limits. Previous Issues were only available in multiples of £25.

YEARLY PLAN

The overall return on five-year Yearly Plan agreements is 5.85% pa compound, guaranteed and tax-free, for applications received from 20 September 1994.

*Application forms and Prospectuses will be available at post offices from 17 October 1994. In the meantime they may be obtained direct from National Savings - please telephone 091 374 5026 (during normal office hours).

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Issued by the Department for National Savings on behalf of the Treasury

PENSIONERS BONDS

Series 1 Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 19 September 1994. Series 2 is on sale from 20 September*. It offers monthly interest at a guaranteed rate of 7.5% pa gross over the first five years that a Bond is held.

The minimum purchase is £500 and the maximum holding of Series 2 Bonds is £20,000. This is in addition to any holding of Series 1 Bonds.

CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS

Issue F Children's Bonus Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 19 September 1994. Issue G is on sale from 20 September*. It offers a guaranteed and tax-free return of 7.85% pa compound when held for the first five years.

CAPITAL BONDS

Series H Capital Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 19 September 1994. Series I is on sale from 20 September*. It offers a gross return of 7.75% pa compound, guaranteed when held for five years.

FIRST OPTION BONDS

From 20 September 1994*, the first year fixed rate on FIRST Option Bonds is 6.4% gross (4.8% net). Bonds of £20,000 or more held in the first anniversary earn a bonus of 0.4% gross (0.3% net).

Pajares confirmed at Savoy

RAMON Pajares was yesterday confirmed as the new managing director of The Savoy Hotel. The Spanish-born former UK Hotelier of the Year is currently general manager of London's Four Seasons Hotel (formerly The Inn on the Park). He will take up his new post in November.

Mr Pajares succeeds Giles Shepard, 57, who stepped down a week ago, ending 15 years at the helm of the luxury hotels group, after criticism of its financial performance.

"I am delighted and honoured to be joining the Savoy group," Mr Pajares said. "This unique group of hotels and restaurants has epitomised, through its existence, the dream of thousands of young, career-minded people, the school for learning how to deliver quality of service."

Mr Shepard's departure has been seen as a victory for Forte, the majority stakeholder with minority of votes, whose influence he resisted.

Date set for British Coal to bow out

POWERS to license coal operations and the ownership of reserves will transfer to the Coal Authority from British Coal on October 31, it was announced by the Government yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

Charles Wardle, the energy and industry minister, also confirmed the appointments of Sir David White as chairman and of Neville Washington as a member of the Coal Authority.

The new authority's functions will include licensing coal-mining operations; owning reserves and making them available for exploration and exploitation; and dealing with events such as landslides, water discharges or gas emissions, which are its responsibility as owner of the coal reserves.

It will also deal with claims for subsidence damage and must provide access to information such as geological data and mine plans.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

AMC

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

PLC announces that

with effect from 16th

September 1994 until

further notice the rate

of interest for all

existing variable rate

loans will be 7.65.

For further details of

AMC's facilities please

contact AMC, AMC,

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Andover SP10 1DD.

Tel: 0264 334747.

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On manoeuvres with GrandMet A chance to reform City law enforcement Time for Tokyo to open up

No accounting for faith

Grand Metropolitan's latest financial manoeuvres are fodder for all those hopeless cynics who argue that the company bends accounting principles so far that they could refract light. For the second time in two years, the group is shovelling a mixed bag of reorganisation expenses into a jumbo £280 million provision. How convenient for the newly-ennobled Lord Sheppard that he has just chalked up a £200 million profit on the sale of a dog-food business to prevent his company's headline profit figure being too badly dented by such a corporate spring clean.

Of course, the two balance sheet events could never be related, but GrandMet is becoming rather practised in the exceptional item. Last year, it set aside £175 million to shake up its American food businesses. This year, it is the turn of IDV and the European food division. These projects, we are told, will cut group operating costs by £160 million, only 2.3 per cent of the group's total operating costs, but enough to make the exercise worthwhile and provide money the group is keen to recycle into marketing its brand portfolio.

Of course, there will be some sour folk who will wonder whether any mundane items are creeping into these hold-all provisions or whether another provision will have to be estab-

lished next time the boardroom carpet needs replacing. They will not be silenced by GrandMet's reluctance to say which distilleries it plans to close and how many jobs are likely to be lost. GrandMet's accounts have never been easy for a number cruncher to decipher, with their intangible assets and associate companies, such as Imntrepreneur. Following GrandMet is more akin to religion than clear-headed investment. One simply has to have faith in the group's brands and its powerful marketing skills to provide the cash to pay dividends and satisfy the group's acquisitive hunger.

The group can currently satisfy such faith on two counts. The group is becoming a powerful cash generator, with some City analysts predicting that it will show off as much as £250 million next year. Cash is the one item that no exceptional provision can conceal.

Lord Sheppard still has tremendous skill at selling unwanted businesses for phenomenal prices. It was an open secret in financial circles that GrandMet was keen to be rid of Alpo,

trailing seventh in an industry where margins are being squeezed and the winner will take almost all. Lord Sheppard, however, has found a buyer willing to pay more than 1.2 times annual turnover.

The sale will cut GrandMet debts to less than £2 billion, a trifle compared with past figures. In the old days, Lord Sheppard would have probably seized the chance to buy a small South American country, but even he has felt the turn of City sentiment against the mega-deal. Instead, he talks about modest in-fill acquisitions, if GrandMet can rein in its desires as tightly as it does its accounts.

Saunders the lawmaker

JUDGMENTS by the European Commission on Human Rights are a long way from changes in British law. The Commission's findings in the case of Ernest Saunders point to such an obvious conflict that it will be hard to dodge the issue. Essentially, the problem is that witnesses are compelled to give



evidence to investigators under a variety of laws aimed at regulating business, and thus, if necessary, to incriminate themselves. When criminal allegations are brought, forced self-incrimination is an anathema. The long-winded new police caution is still a long way short of the compulsion to give evidence to commercial investigators.

This mismatch comes up every time criminal prosecutions follow official investigations under company or banking law. The Serious Fraud Office and prosecuting attorneys have tried to wean themselves off relying on evidence from investigations as far as possible. That, however, is only likely to raise the failure rate in high-profile cases even further—

especially those centring on complex false accounting scams, rather than conventional fraud aimed at depriving people of their money.

In the end, the conflicts will have to be sorted out. One way is to curb the powers of the DTI and other investigators. That would not help creditors or the good conduct of business. The other is to crack down on commercial "crimes" through the civil rather than the criminal law. That is surely the best route for breaches of City rules, as well as for insider trading and like cheating. It should lead to speedier justice and prove a cheaper and more effective way to clean up the sewers of business.

Some laws would still have to be changed, not least to increase the powers and civil punishment available to regulators. The sanction of imprisonment would also be lost. But prisons should not be full of overweening entrepreneurs and flashy traders. Whatever one may think of those involved, the Guinness case was an expensive waste of public funds. The full power of the criminal law to lock people

away should be reserved for those who either set out to rook the public or do so recklessly to save themselves.

Japan still has further to go

THE Japanese are growing up. Well-fed teenagers tower over their parents. Japan's politics and the economy are regaining stability after a period of confusion, scandal and recession. Corporations have acquired a global reach. Protectionism is gradually breaking down. Where does that leave us?

A joint conference between the Chambers of Commerce of Britain, Japan, London and Tokyo, held yesterday in London, picked over the jetsam of the tidal wave of money that swept out of Japan during the second half of the 1980s.

Total direct investments overseas by Japanese manufacturers in 1988 were £1.8 billion, of which £60 million came to Britain. By 1990, the total was £8.7 billion, of which £1.1 billion settled here. The Japanese feel at home with

Britain, its language and its tax rates. Yet investment flows are falling. New markets in China, Vietnam and India promise larger returns, bigger opportunities.

The Japanese priorities are infrastructure, information networks and financing for both. All areas in which Britain has considerable technical expertise. Collaboration is invited.

Britain's construction, engineering, telecoms and media industries should take note. Our car-makers learned, to their cost and almost too late, the need to keep up with an ingenious opposition. You can't beat them if you don't join them.

Reciprocity remains an issue. Aided by Honda, Britain's German owned car-maker, Rover, is raising sales in Japan by more than 30 per cent a year. But what a battle it has been to gain market access.

Japanese consumers want to buy British goods. Structural and legal impediments restrict our exports and investment.

Liberalisation of Japanese insurance markets has been discussed for a decade. Where's the progress? Whisky is taxed into the stratosphere. British firms invest only 10p in Japan for every pound that the Japanese invest here, and not for lack of will.

Are the Japanese still too small to compete on the level?



Bruce Farmer, left, with Graham Swetman, finance director, said purchases would mean a rise in gearing

Morgan Crucible ready to hit acquisition trail

By PHILIP PANGALOS

MORGAN Crucible, the specialist industrial materials group that recently sold its Holt Lloyd International car care business, plans to make further "bolt-on acquisitions" in the current year.

Bruce Farmer, managing director, said the group is in "advanced stages" of negotiations to acquire a number of businesses, including operations in the carbon and thermal ceramics fields. The company will fund the new buys with proceeds from the sale in August of Holt Lloyd to its management for £63.4 million. The businesses in question are understood to have annual sales between £20 million and £60 million.

Dr Farmer said the acquisition programme would mean a rise in gearing, which is currently about 33 per cent

"But, certainly, gearing will not be higher than 50 per cent by the end of the year... that's how much we'll spend."

The news came as Morgan Crucible unveiled an 8.4 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £35 million (£32.3 million) in the half year to July 4. The advance follows an upturn in demand in most of the group's markets and the continued launch of new products, helping first half sales to grow 2.6 per cent, or 3.2 per cent excluding currency and acquisitions, to £412 million.

Dr Farmer said the group's broad international spread, the launch of products and a commitment to research and development had helped to see it through the worst of the recession, as had cost-cutting. The company now manufactures in 41 countries and sells

in 122, while 20 per cent of sales were achieved by businesses the group did not have three years ago. On the cost front, the group has reduced the number of people it employs by 16 per cent since 1990.

Dr Farmer said progress in the rest of the year would be fuelled by improving demand, new product sales, the benefits of rationalisation and the investment of some of the proceeds of the Holt Lloyd sale.

He added: "The group's order intake is currently up 6 per cent on last year, with the best gains being seen in North America, South-East Asia, the UK and the remainder of Europe. Australasian demand shows little improvement and our Japanese markets are still depressed." An upturn in Japanese markets is unlikely this year, while cuts in defence

spending in America and Britain have already dented sales and profits at the group's specialty materials division and are likely to continue to take a toll.

He said: "We know there are going to be some more defence cutbacks, but we don't know by how much. Defence remains tough."

"Overall, we are now seeing some upturn in demand and the investments we have made in improving efficiency and new product development are beginning to benefit our margins."

Underlying earnings climbed 8.4 per cent to 10.3p (9.5p) a share. The interim dividend is raised to 5.95p (5.75p). The shares firmed 4p to 332p.

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Investment causes slide at Isle of Man Steam Packet

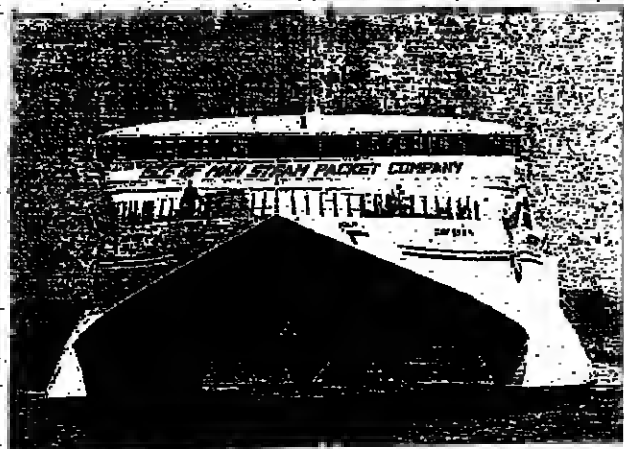
By OUR CITY STAFF

THE Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, which operates ferry services for passengers and vehicles, hopes to reap the benefits of a new and much faster catamaran service introduced in June.

The company's services, which operate between the Isle of Man, Heysham, Liverpool, Fleetwood, Belfast and Dublin, received a boost from the successful introduction of SeaCat Isle of Man, a catamaran service for 450 passengers which substantially cuts journey times on all routes.

The SeaCat, which travels at 37 knots, has been chartered from Sea Containers, which has a 42 per cent stake in the company, and has halved the voyage to Liverpool to 2½ hours, while Dublin and Belfast are now also only 2½ hours away.

The costs of establishing a new North Sea roll-on-roll-off freight service took a toll on



Steaming ahead: the SeaCat entered service in June

first-half profits. Pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30 fell to £1.18 million, against £1.91 million last time, on turnover ahead to £125 million (£11.9 million).

Juan Kelly, chairman, said the results benefited from better yields and improved cost controls, which more than offset a fall in traffic

levels on Isle of Man routes. Profits, however, were hit by the costs of establishing the Mannin Line, the roll-on-roll-off freight service operating from Great Yarmouth to Ipswich in The Netherlands that started last November. Earnings slip to 3.48p (5.42p) a share, but the interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p.

New fears push up coffee price

FEARS that retail coffee prices will rise again were fuelled by a fresh surge in the price of raw coffee yesterday amid market concern about the impact of dry weather in Brazil, the world's biggest producer.

Raw coffee climbed to its highest price for eight years. The November contract hit a peak of \$4.089 a tonne on the London commodity exchange, before easing back to close at \$4.039, still \$107 higher than at the finish on Friday. Yesterday's peak was \$4 above the highest price reached in July after frost hit Brazil's coffee-growing regions.

Dry weather could now damage trees unaffected by the frost, which is believed to have cut the coming year's Brazilian crop, by up to 40 per cent.

September is an important month for coffee buyers, as roasters prepare for the Christmas season. They had hoped for a price dip this autumn.

Dairy Farm ends Kwik Save pact

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

DAIRY Farm International ruled out a full takeover bid for Kwik Save, the discount retailer in which it holds a 29.4 per cent stake, after the two sides agreed an end to a seven-year-old standstill agreement.

The company, based in Hong Kong, said it had no intention of making an offer for Kwik Save and expected to remain a long-term and supportive minority shareholder when the standstill agreement ends in November.

Dairy Farm acquired a 25 per cent stake in Kwik Save in September 1987 and has since raised its holding to 29.4 per cent. The standstill agreement, set up in November 1987, restricted its ability to increase or dispose of its stake without Kwik Save's consent.

Yesterday, a Dairy Farm spokesman said that the

agreement had outlived its purpose. "It was put in at a time when the two boards did not know each other," he said. "The relationship is now very close." The two companies have three mutual directors, including Simon Keswick, chairman of both boards.

Tony MacNeary, a food retailing analyst with NatWest Markets, believes the move finally eliminates the possibility of a bid for Kwik Save by Dairy Farm, the subject of speculation ever since the original stake was bought. Mr MacNeary believes that Dairy Farm is more likely to dispose of its shareholding.

Kwik Save's pre-tax profits for the year to August are expected to be about £130 million, against £126 million last time.

Tempus, page 28

Jardine boosted by joint venture

By ROBERT MILLER

JARDINE Matheson, the international trading house that is now registered in Bermuda, yesterday reported profits of US\$216 million after tax in the first half of the year—a 24 per cent increase over the comparable figure for 1993.

The group, which is a founder of the Hong Kong colony is known as the "princely hong", raised its interim dividend 15 per cent to 7.8 cents and increased its earnings to 36.69 cents a share. The results were boosted by a particularly strong showing from the joint venture with Jardine Fleming, which posted a 44 per cent increase in its interim profits to \$111 million.

However, Jardine said: "In the second half of the year, it will be difficult to match the quite exceptional results achieved in the comparable period last year. In stock

broking, less buoyant conditions in South-East Asian financial markets were to some extent offset by improvements in Japan." Funds under management at Jardine Fleming rose to \$22 billion, against \$21 billion at the end of 1993.

Jardine Pacific's earnings increased 7 per cent to \$36 million with improved results in Hong Kong and a partial recovery in the wine and spirits business in Japan. The restaurants division benefited from a good performance by Pizza Hut in Japan.

At Mandarin Oriental, which assumed the management of the Ritz in London in May, profits were \$23 million. Hongkong Land profits rose 10 per cent to \$182 million.

Henry Keswick, group chairman, said: "The outlook for the full year is for satisfactory earnings growth."

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Getting back on track to restore peace to railways

A shift by the RMT could signal an end to the dispute with

Railtrack, says Philip Bassett

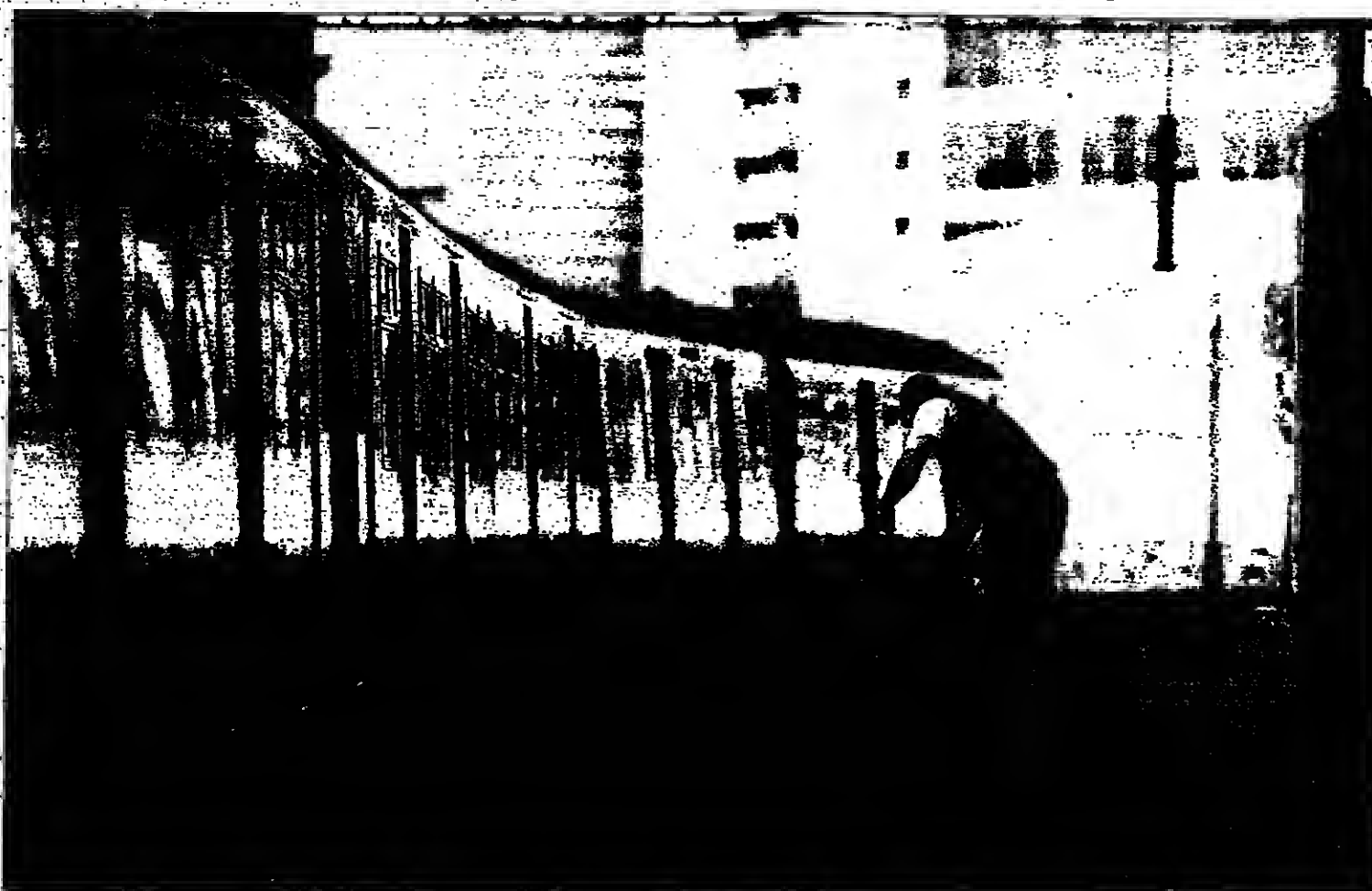
Is this it? After three months of strikes, with 18 days of rail disruption spread over 13 weeks, is the signalworkers' action dragging itself towards a conclusion? To the obvious relief of virtually everyone involved, it finally looks like it: this seems like the end game. Hard talking is now set to start after the break-up of the logjam between Railtrack, the state-owned track company, and RMT, the rail union, which has prevented all talks since as far back as July 12.

The key that appears to have unlocked the problem already seems, in retrospect, so minor. Instead of each side saying they will not talk about what the other wants to discuss, the RMT is proposing "parallel negotiations", in which Railtrack's proposals for future efficiency gains through restructuring will be considered at the same time as the union's outstanding claim for payment for past productivity improvements.

Simple enough. But finding such a key, whether it was the arbitration proposed by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, or the refresher strike balloons suggested by Howard Davies, the CBI director-general, has proved impossible over the past three months, even for the nuncs manipulators at Acas, the conciliation service, who will now be trying hard to act as a midwife in a final settlement. Is the idea of parallel negotiations a concession by the RMT? Clearly, yes, Jimmy Knapp, the union's growingly genial general secretary, denied yesterday it was a climbdown, insisting that someone had to take the initiative. But in the head-to-head conflict that drawn-out industrial disputes become, one side always blinks at some point; and in this dispute, it is the RMT that has blinked first.

Over the past three months, Railtrack has tried its hardest to find the key that the RMT has now provided — everything from a mechanism through which the strikers and re-employment on individual contracts based on working practices. The management team eventually came up with some kind of strategy whose slowness of gestation was matched only by its slowness of success. It sought to crack open the dispute by opening up lines, by hoping that a gradually increasing number of services would rattle the signallers and that would, in turn, put pressure on the union to change its stance.

In one way, the company has failed. The number of RMT members who were on strike and who have returned to work is still startlingly small, at a claimed maximum of only about 10 per cent and, in reality, probably less. How many and how normal are the services that have been running remains a contentious point in industrial disputes, as in



The fate of Friday's planned stoppage is likely to rest on substantive talks that all sides yesterday expected to take place straight away

war, truth is often the first casualty, and in this dispute truth has often been left badly bleeding by the side of tracks. But in a more important way, Railtrack has succeeded. Its refusal to give much ground in the long weeks of the strikes throughout the summer clearly rattled the belief of the signallers, RMT officials and leaders of other unions that they could win. Although that rising nervousness was not reflected in any significant cracking of the RMT's support, it combined with worries about the possible loss of pension money from the privatisation timetable for breaking up the rail industry to create the conditions for a shift by the union.

But in disputes, such shifts often come about in a piecemeal fashion, and the RMT's move was a piece of pie. Speaking to the media on pain of speaking to the media on pain of speaking to the media, Railtrack's officials, who, unsurprisingly, would not be the best conduit for any shift of grassroots opinion — so no shift was discernible.

Until the weekend that is, in the bleak September surroundings of Great Yarmouth, Railtrack's efforts to manufacture a mechanism for a shift to be expressed were thrust aside when the signallers themselves found their own. A conference of about 100 signallers seized on the idea of "parallel" negotiations that had been floated by Mr Knapp at a speech in Scotland, and drew up a formula that was put to the RMT's national executive yesterday afternoon.

Railtrack and privately, some RMT officials were concerned yesterday that the political complexion of the union's governing executive, on which the left has a clear majority, might be enough to frustrate a move to talks. But RMT leaders knew yesterday that the one move that might well crack open the members' solid support for the strikes as early as the one-day stoppage due on Friday would be not an initiative from Railtrack but a rejection by the national executive of what the signallers themselves have now clearly indicated they want. Whether Friday's strike can yet be called off is questionable — indeed, to stay as the

Whether the dispute can be settled will rest on whether the Government allows it to be

union has deftly done within the limits set by legislation on strike ballots, the RMT leadership is under pressure to set new strike dates on an insurance basis to keep alive the original strike mandate. The fate of Friday's planned stoppage is likely to rest on the substantive talks, almost certainly with Acas, which yesterday all sides were expecting to take place straight away. What can be achieved in them? And what is Railtrack after in terms of "restructuring"? Acas, Railtrack and the RMT have all been united on one point — that there is no point convening new talks unless there is something to talk about. After Great

Yarmouth, there now is. But talks at Acas will not resolve every outstanding issue. The best bet looks likely to be some kind of framework agreement, enough to provide for a suspension of strike action and to trigger the October 1 pension payments date, leaving the detail of substantial restructuring to be hammered out in a joint working party.

What Railtrack and the RMT can get out of such a process is largely dependent on one point — what the Treasury will wear. Having in effect triggered the entire dispute by blocking a 5.7 per cent deal in early June (though other public-sector managers blame Railtrack for even telling the Government what it was intending to do) whether the dispute can be settled will rest on whether the Government allows it to be.

If the RMT's move at Great Yarmouth is enough to signal a reciprocal shift by the Treasury, then what is obtainable in the talks? Railtrack's offer package is still much as it was:

- A 2.5 per cent annual pay award, backdated to April;
- Six per cent added to basic rates for July-October, worth at present 3.2 per cent on earnings, although probably more if the talks prize from the company a greater element of consolidation into basic;
- A £250 lump sum to buy out cash wage payments.

Railtrack says this will give rises totalling 7.2 per cent, but that, in addition, further money would flow from a full negotiation of the changes in working practices the company wants to see, which it estimates would increase average earnings from next month by about 10 per cent.

Railtrack would get a new grading and pay structure (including an end to many outmoded allowances) and flexible work rosters allowing for variable-length shifts within a 12-hour maximum. The company says the whole package would give signallers basic pay increases of 13-26 per cent, a shorter working week of 37 hours, and other improvements.

Into this mix will now be stirred the RMT's claim for an 11 per cent "interim" payment for past productivity improvements, although how the two elements will be fused together is as yet unclear. Whatever the blend, RMT members will retain their suspicions of it as the talks go on — simply because many believe the savings likely to accrue to Railtrack from such changes are worth far more than the £4.3 million the company says they will yield.

But based around the near find-the-lady sleight of "parallel" negotiations (which will not mean two sets of talks, but is mainly a means to get one set going), a deal is now possible for the first time since June.

For British Rail and Railtrack, whose final bills for the dispute will be a great deal less than the hundreds of millions claimed to have been "lost", that will be welcome — as it will for the signallers, whose earnings loss is now on average up to about £1,100. For the RMT, a deal will mean getting out from under, before things go further to the bad.

It all depends now, as it has done throughout, on the Government — whether the Great Yarmouth move is sufficient to sanction a settlement. All sides on Britain's battered railways — customers, management and staff — will be hoping it will be.

The Tunnel now standing at Waterloo

Eurotunnel test runs are ironing out the final few wrinkles. Ross Tieman reports

Last Friday morning, a £25 million Eurostar supertrain, its bogies and skirting coated with a pinkish foreign dust, nosed its way past stationary commuter trains into Waterloo station. The travellers, clustered in the first class accommodation, gazed out curiously: they had got up that morning in Paris, left the Gare du Nord only three hours earlier.

In the Waterloo International terminus, the presence of another Eurostar high-speed train, lined up waiting to depart, was ample evidence that train services between Britain and the Continent are now an everyday reality.

These inter-capital test and proving trains have been running for months, building reliability, ironing out bugs. But down at the Channel Tunnel signal control centre, on the outskirts of Folkestone, they are only a fraction of the daily traffic.

Fifty trains a day are now running through the Channel Tunnel. Freight trains carry cars from Birmingham to Milan. Lorry shuttles cruise back and forth like clockwork every 30 minutes. And car shuttles, the supposed linchpin of Eurotunnel's future prosperity, have already carried 10,000 trial vehicles.

For the first time since construction of the Tunnel began in 1987, it may be right to believe in Eurotunnel's opening plans. Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, used to say that services would begin on June 15, 1993. Then it was autumn 1993, spring 1994. They even started selling tickets in January, although, subsequently, had to give the money back.

A tunnel is a very complex series of systems: trains, signalling, cooling, ventilation all have to work impeccably. And a substantial part of the escalation in costs, from £4.7 billion to £10 billion, has been caused by tightening safety standards once construction began.

Few public services in Britain have faced a comparable level of scrutiny before implementation. Safety on our airlines, our underground railway and our football stadia has largely been developed in the light of disasters, rather than through forethought.

The consortium of French and British construction companies which originated the Tunnel project underestimated its complexity. Marrying up the different

systems to work harmoniously together, has taken far longer than imagined. But two full operating licences have already been approved by the intergovernmental commission (IGC) charged with ensuring safety in the Tunnel. The freight trains and lorry shuttles are no longer running trials; these are commercial services, vying with the cross-Channel ferries for traffic.

Tests for the third licence, for train services between London and Paris and Brussels, are complete. A formal licence application will probably be filed this week, and received by early October. The licence for the carrying shuttles should follow a few days later.

For the IGC has agreed to allow proving trials involving Eurotunnel shareholders and "opinion formers" to begin on October 3, in precisely two weeks time. The "overture" service, running five days a week from 8am to 8pm, will end six weeks later, on November 15. And after that? We shall see. Eurotunnel clearly has no wish to repeat its earlier public relations mistakes. When it is ready, it will announce services.

The publicans and hoteliers of Kent and Sussex should brace themselves for an influx of French-speaking visitors. The tunnel does not just connect Britain to the Continent, it connects the Continent to Britain. The overwhelming majority of the 30 million ferry passengers who cross the Channel every year are British. But the French are more numerous among Eurotunnel's shareholders.

The Tunnel's runaway costs have led to repeated share issues, issues which have diluted the equity of the original investors hugely. Bank debt has mounted. The first shareholder dividend, forecast for 1997, is not now expected before 2003.

But despite all the hiccups, Eurotunnel seems to have got one element of its timing right. Services are coming on stream as the economies of Britain and France gather momentum. And cross-Channel traffic growth is running well ahead of the rise in economic output.

In future, the traffic will have to be shared between ferries and tunnel. And many travellers will be delighted to give the ferries a cold shoulder — when the Tunnel is ready for them.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mongolian pot goes cold

A high-level trade mission to Mongolia has been cancelled, because of a lack of interest by both industrialists and the Foreign Office. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the CBI set the tour in motion for next month. Companies involved in consumer goods, health care, building materials and fertilisers were among 12 identified by the chamber as likely to profit from the mission — the fourth the chamber has organised to Ulan Bator. But the trip been called off. Only seven companies expressed any interest in doing business with the Mongols and the minimum number was ten. It seems the Foreign Office promised that a government minister would accompany the delegation, but only if there was sufficient interest. The companies, meanwhile, said they would only go if there was a minister going. So it has ended up with no one going — "a chicken and egg situation" said a spokeswoman for the chamber, or, as a wag would say, "like a Mongolian cold pot".

Waiting in line

IN an article on the British and our strange queuing habits, *Harpers & Queen* notes there is a six to 18-month waiting list for a £216,000 classic Riva Aquarone Special motorboat; there are 100 people on an 18-month waiting list for a Purdy gun, which will set you back between

£28,750 and £40,000; that you can wait two years to acquire the fashionable Bolognese dog; and that you might have to wait ten years for membership of the Hurlingham Club and 20 years for membership of the MCC. Debut lists only the first 30 of those queuing in line for succession to the throne — number 30 is claimed by Columbus, son of Lady Helen Taylor — and in the "interminable" waiting class there are 15 British bodies in a 350-strong queue of those currently in cryonic suspension in Arizona waiting to be revived. The article might also have included under interminable "waiting for a dividend cheque from..." (fill in your own blanks).

Subtle words

NEVER underestimate the subtlety or erudition of the British civil servant. Addressing a British Chambers of Commerce conference on in-

vestment between Britain and Japan yesterday, Lord Jenkin of Roding, the former Patrick Jenkin and one-time industry secretary, told of a traditional Japanese haiku composed by civil servants struggling to woo Japanese investors to Britain a decade ago. We get fonder and fonder with Honda. But kissing with Nissan is missing.

Shanghai sinners

LONDON brokers can be thankful they are not on the Shanghai stock exchange, where the authorities are meeting out new punishments for brokerages that fail three times in a month to settle their transactions. Their names are displayed on a public blacklist and fines equivalent of ten to 20 times their margin deposits are imposed. Repeat offenders may be barred from trading altogether. I wonder? In former days, they would have dragged



"Should be quite a party."

ed errant brokers through the streets on the back of a cart with a "I have sinned" notice hanging from their necks.

By the book

JUST what every businessman needs: a revised edition of that bible of efficiency, *How to Gain an Extra Hour Every Day* (Thorsons, £7.99). Ray Joseph's book has sold 2.5 million copies since it was first published in 1955, and remains a number-cruncher's delight. Every day, says Joseph, is effectively a time bank from which you draw your assets in minutes and hours. Every morning, the bank credits you with 86,400 seconds (1,440 minutes). Every night, it makes irrecoverable whatever part you fail to invest to good purpose. Joseph writes off 480 minutes (eight hours) in sleep, and the same again in work, leaving readers to find that extra 60 minutes from among

the rest. Unsurprisingly, the book has been a best-seller in Japan.

Going shopping

ROSEMARY Astles, who has spent 15 years with Thomson Tour Operations, is obviously tired of looking at duty-free shops at various world-wide airports, and has decided on a change of career. She has plumped for home shopping, and is off to join Freemans, the home shopping division of Sear's, as marketing director at the end of next month. Freemans, which started up in 1905 and which has been operating out of the same Clapham, south London, headquarters since the 1930s, says Rosemary's database marketing skills will help its overall business development. But does Rosemary realise that Freemans has one million agents, two and a half million customers, and that it publishes 1.5 million catalogues every season, twice a year? That print run should be enough to stop her going through green channels at airports from here on.

Ear, ear

THERE is a whole new meaning to the phrase "Working Lunch", the title of the new business programme on BBC2. In thanking Professor Bhattacharyya of Warwick University for his role in getting the programme off the ground, Paul Gibbs, the editor, says: "He had Mrs Thatcher's ear, he now has Mr Heseltine's".

COLIN CAMPBELL

Opening an account for youth group is a hard task

From Mr Richard Buckley
Sir, I recently found myself appointed treasurer of a newly formed youth organisation. Last week, another office holder and myself, armed with two forms of identification and copies of a suitable resolution from our management committee, went to open a current account for the organisation. The Abbey National's response was one of mild confusion, as if banking services weren't really their sort of thing. In fact, they were positively smug about the whole business. They could open a Treasurer's account, we were told, but this was only a deposit account for large

sums. A voluntary organisation was, in their opinion a business, and they did not provide current account facilities for businesses. At Barclays, we were also told that it counted as a business account. We were told that they were only a sub-branch and could not process the inquiry themselves, but if we left our phone number, a business banker would contact us. The counter clerk could give no information at all on what charges the account might incur. In desperation, we tried the (newly franchised) local post office to inquire about a Giro account. The man behind the

counter was extremely helpful and thought that he could open an account for us, although he was not sure. Unfortunately, he could not find an application form. He did give us a leaflet with a free telephone help number. We phoned this number only to get an announcement saying that it closed at 4.30pm!

No doubt all three organisations have extensive staff training and customer care programmes. Unfortunately, their basic product seems to be flawed. Yours faithfully, RICHARD BUCKLEY, 19 Corringham Road, Wembley Park.

On your bike to Northern Ireland

From Mr Charles Linford
Sir, Philip Bassett's guide to employment growth in the UK (September 14) excluded the area which has the worst unemployment, and yet the most exciting prospects for job seekers, Northern Ireland. His report failed to reflect the recent prediction by the CBI Northern Ireland, which anticipates the creation of up to 50,000 new jobs, 20 per cent from tourism, against an elimination of 20,000 jobs from the security-related sectors as a result of the "Peace dividend". This magnitude of change in a regional job market is unprecedented. Might he then have advised job seekers to join the international investors and tourists, by pointing their bikes at Ulster? Yours faithfully, CHARLES LINFORD, Institute of Management Services (Northern Ireland), 56 Cherryhill Road, Muckamore, Co Antrim.

Confusion over similar company names

From Mr Graham Watts
Sir, On Friday, September 2 you ran a story on the front page of Section 2 of *The Times* entitled "Britain to face fraud charges in US". Within the body of the article you made reference to two legal entities, one which was referred to as "Continental Capital Markets". I would like to point out that the company involved in the "Ponzi" scheme was Con-

tinental Capital Markets Inc, a New York registered firm, and not Continental Capital Markets Limited, now part of Bank of America. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM J. WATTS, Chairman, Continental Capital Markets Limited, Continental Bank House, 162 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

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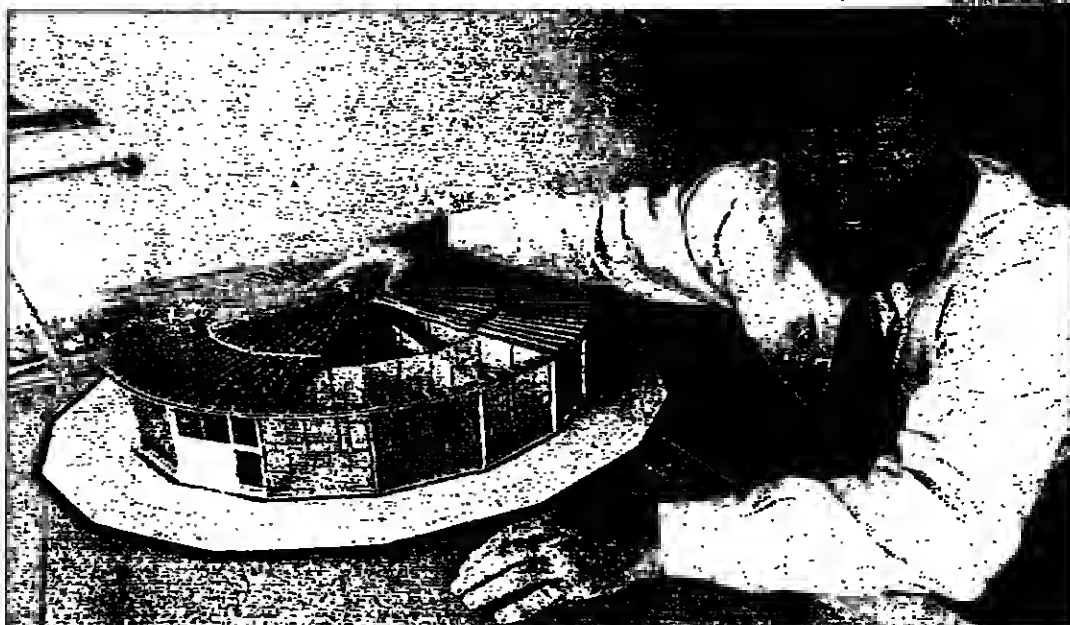
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Dog days end in kennels

By RODNEY HOBSON

"I've spent the past few years trying to avoid a different kind of wake"

Two years ago, he was approached to help to build two dog kennel blocks for the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The kennels, housing 16 dogs, had been designed by Wood Green Animal Shelters, an animal welfare charity. They were circular instead of the traditional straight run. Mr Taylor says: "The



Colin Taylor with a model of his circular kennel concept, which cost him £250,000 to develop

Made by Parasol at Boreham, Essex, the pack costs £35,000 ex works. Mr Taylor says a comparable traditional kennel block would cost £75,000. "With 70 per cent occupancy and charging £5 a day

Mr Taylor employs his wife, who is an accountant, and two other people, one of them his son. After a successful reception at Cruft's Show, where he attracted almost 200 inquiries, he is contemplating offers of larger sites, including one in South Wales, to set up a full-scale manufacturing operation.

□ Requirements for small high-technology companies in locating in a science park will be explored at a conference to be held at the University of Warwick on October 11. Conference fee is £125, or £95 to members of the Institute for Small Business Affairs. Details from Tracy Webster at the Warwick centre on (0203 523741 ext. 2818.

□ A record 135 companies will be at the National Franchise Exhibition, at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre from September 30 to October 2. Established franchisers will include McDonald's and Wimpy. New formats will range from coffee kiosks to frozen yoghurt. Contact Blenheim Events, 083-742 2828.

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Some lost ground recovered

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

DRAPEY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
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30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1
30	29	Abey	29	4.1	13.1

What Is to Au

LAW

● LEGAL HERITAGE 37
● DANGER AHEAD 37

What happened to Aunt Flo?

A TV documentary tonight will probe a woman's conviction for murder. Tim Devlin reports

It never there was a case for investigation by Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple or Sherlock Holmes, it was the mysterious disappearance of Florence Jackson, aged 89, whose body was found floating in the River Brede, near Rye, East Sussex, on a May morning two years ago.

The circumstances that led to her drowning are the subject tonight of a Channel 4 *Trial and Error* documentary (at 9pm) which questions some of the police's investigative procedures and the way in which Sheila Bowler, Mrs Jackson's niece and a respected Rye widow, was convicted for a murder which I am convinced, through personal knowledge of her character, she did not commit. She has now spent 14 months in prison, and her case is expected to go to appeal this autumn.

On May 13, 1992, at about 8pm, Mrs Bowler, a retired 62-year-old music teacher, collected Mrs Jackson, who was her late husband's frail Aunt Flo, from a nursing home in Winchelsea to take her for a few days to her own house in Rye. It was dark by the time they were driving home. Mrs Bowler says she felt the steering failing, stopped the car and found a partially flat tyre. She had no spare wheel and decided to call for help at a nearby house, where she asked to use the telephone. Aunt Flo was left in the front seat. Some 30 minutes later Mrs Bowler returned to find the car empty.

Mrs Bowler's immediate reaction was that her aunt could not have walked far on her own. It was later widely accepted that with a wrist brace, a few months previously in a fall, Aunt Flo could not have managed herself out of the car and 650 yards down the remote country lane, to the pumping station, and from there, in the dark, down the steep bank where one of her slippers was found, to the place in the water underlying a concrete culvert where her body was subsequently spotted by a police helicopter pilot.

There was no forensic evidence to link Mrs Bowler with the riverbank or with the injuries her aunt sustained. There were no tyre marks or footprints. No blood, mud or damp were found on Mrs Bowler's clothes. "With hindsight," said the judge, Mr Justice Garland (in his summing up), "it would have been beneficial if more tests had been carried out."

In good detective thriller tradition, the police seem to have fastened on to the obvious suspect fairly early on. The motive was said to be that fear of the cost of the nursing home fees would whittle away the value of the victim's home, which Mrs Bowler would be due to inherit.

My wife and I, friends of Mrs Bowler since the late 1970s, started from the opposite end of the spectrum, convinced of her innocence. Nothing perhaps that would stand up in a court of law, but a conviction that she would never commit such a crime.

We also knew that she cared passionately about her daughter's musical career, and that if she had committed this cruel and callous murder, she would not have planned it on the eve of her daughter's final music degree examination. The idea of Aunt Flo being rich was laughable — her tiny flat is worth £30,000. Furthermore she had for years been cared for so diligently by Mrs Bowler that we assumed the case would be dismissed. We were wrong. The jury at Hove Crown Court in July 1993 returned a guilty verdict of 11-1.

Through my late father, Lord Devlin, we had sufficient legal contacts to be advised that, without fresh evidence, the Court of Appeal might not easily overrule such a verdict, unless the judge had erred in law in summing up.

How, on legal aid, was fresh evidence to be obtained? The legal transcripts alone would cost about £1,000 for each day's court proceedings. The first solicitor we approached, warned us that the initial consultation would cost £200 an hour.

During the trial, prosecution evidence that the tyre had been deliberately let down was found to be inconclusive. The assertion that Aunt Flo had been given a shove from the top of the riverbank was disproved, and a subsequent theory of how in the dark Mrs Bowler had led her aunt down to the steep river's edge and along some precarious ledges was laughed out of court.

Mid-way through the trial, Mrs Bowler's defence argued there was no case to answer. The judge agreed that every plank of direct evidence against Mrs Bowler had collapsed. But the judge still felt that there was evidence on which the jury could properly reach a guilty verdict.

In what was a crucial decision, he argued in camera that the jury could ask: "If not the defendant, then who?" If the jury could not think who else could have killed Aunt Flo, then it must have been Mrs Bowler — in effect reversing the burden of proof.

David Jessel, presenter of *Trial and Error*, says in his book on the Channel 4 series that he cannot see how the jury, once it had accepted that Mrs Jackson was unable to walk by herself, could have come to any logical conclusion other than Mrs Bowler's guilt. As David Jessel put it, it had either to be her, an alien invader or a Libyan assassin.

The judge told the jury that they were entitled to ask themselves whether anyone else could have done it. But as criminal silk Anthony Hooper, QC, says: "There is always a danger that by concentrating on who else could have done it, one forgets that the real issue is: has the prosecution proved that she did it?"

Luckily for Mrs Bowler, many of her other friends were also convinced of her innocence. One was a constituent of Chris Mullin, MP. Her approach to him was a factor which led to the initial interest by the *Trial and Error* team.

The programme suggests the obvious answer to Aunt Flo's disappearance — that like many confused, elderly people in old people's homes, she might have been much more mobile than imagined. This theory was dismissed by almost all at the trial except, interestingly enough, by Aunt Flo's own doctor. It is just possible that, terrified at being left alone, she managed to open the car door, get out and shuffle along the flat road surface to her death.

New evidence shown on the programme could justify a referral of the case to the Court of Appeal. On it, leading geriatric experts confirm that Mrs Bowler was highly likely to want to get out one, on the basis of her medical reports, said it was "within the bounds of possibility".

The police investigation used questionable tactics such as implanting a "friendly" police officer into Mrs Bowler's home, who collected evidence which could be used against her.

In such cases, how are investigations to be carried out? Legal aid would not carry the cost, and television investigations, though invaluable, want to produce good television. The case for an investigative review body with adequate resources, as urged by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, is compelling. In the meantime, the case against our friend Mrs Bowler has not been proved beyond all reasonable doubt.

● The author is a former Times journalist.



Florence Jackson and, inset, Sheila Bowler, the woman convicted of her murder

Can fundholders cut the legal aid bill?

The team of Treasury-led officials carrying out the fundamental review of how taxpayers' money is spent on legal services and legal aid is said to be drawn to the idea of GP-style fundholders. These fundholders — not lawyers — would act as middlemen between the lawyer and legal aid funds: they would decide who should have legal aid, and for what kind of case, and so bring incentives into the system not to spend legal aid.

The idea comes from a memorandum recently published by the Social Market Foundation, and there are rumours that it will form the main plank of the review team's report in the autumn, and then of a Green Paper in the new year.

The combination of authorship and argument in the memorandum certainly merits some attention. Tony Holland, a former president of the Law Society, joins a law professor and a health economist in arguing that his fellow Law Society members are the major reason for escalating legal aid expenditure.

They have created "supplier-induced demand", because they control who gets assistance and how much. This has been fanned by the "moral hazard" that affects any suppliers of services to customers for which someone else is paying. The answer is to cap the legal aid budget: "fundholders for justice" to dole out the money, bulk contracts with lawyers at lower prices, and more money direct from clients.

Government ministers will commend Mr Holland's Pauline conversion to the principle of capping the income of his one-time colleagues. But despite his undoubted courage in taking that stance, greater care needs to be taken in the argument. The Government might do well to pause before accepting his logic.

To begin with, the success of fundholding in the NHS is not entirely clear to all observers. Leaving this aside, however, fundholding's translation into legal aid would mask a key inadequacy in the underlying analysis by Mr Holland and his co-authors.

The cost of legal aid may have risen to some degree because lawyers have sought out some cases and prolonged others. However, there are other causes, among them government policy. Around 5 per cent of all legal aid expenditure goes on the police station advice scheme implemented to offset greater police powers in 1986. Its cost is likely to rise substantially as the result of the abolition of the right of silence in current

legislation. Expenditure on family cases has risen from 18 per cent to 27 per cent of the total legal aid budget over the last five years, largely as the result of government policy of greater rights for children.

The factors driving legal aid expenditure are, thus, more diverse than simple supplier inflation. Indeed, they include not only government but the courts. Government policy has been to devolve criminal cases to the magistrates' courts. Their work will increase as their workloads rise with the lessening use of diversionary mechanisms such as cautions. Legal aid is no luxury in a court dominated by three lay justices. In a case of any complexity, lawyers are needed to speed and to ease the process. It has become conventional in any review of legal aid expenditure to recommend, hopefully, that clients should not only pay more but that it would be good for them to do so. Unfortunately, legally-aided clients are largely on incomes at or just above minimum levels. The growth in poverty accounts for what is otherwise the paradox of a rising take-up of legal aid during a period when eligibility levels have been cut sharply. Thus, income eligibility for civil legal aid has been almost halved since 1979, but the numbers in receipt of means-tested basic social security benefits rose from 14 to 20 per cent during the 1980s. Already, 86 per cent of all civil legally aided litigants are on income of less than around £50 per week. A major drive to obtain more contributions in criminal cases resulted in a 10 per cent decrease in the amount collected in 1993.

The search for ways to curb the growth in the legal aid budget is absolutely justifiable. The Legal Aid Board is already in the process of the greatest transformation of legal aid since it was established in 1949. Its concept of franchising legal aid providers, both lawyers and advice agencies, offers the prospect of better planning, provision and practice.

The obvious way forward is to build on the board as a central purchaser of services with a national, public and, hence, more politically accountable set of priorities. This is the Australian model, with its state Legal Aid Commissions given sufficient resources and an acceptance of the impact on legal aid of a whole range of other government policies. There is no reason why it should not work in this jurisdiction.

The author is director of the Legal Action Group, a campaigning cost-effective Access to Justice by G. Bevan, T. Holland and M. Parrington (Social Market Foundation).

ROGER SMITH

Better win-win damages

Improvements are proposed to the system of structured settlements

The Law Commission, the statutory law reform body, has just published proposals to improve the way damages awards are made. Their suggestions (Report No 224, on Structured Settlements and Interim and Provisional Damages) coincide with the fifth anniversary of the UK's first structured settlement, that of Kelly v Dawes.

Catherine Kelly, a severely injured 25-year-old nurse, accepted a cash settlement of £10,000, together with annual instalments of £2,760 for her lifetime, which would increase in line with inflation each year. The annual payment has now risen to £32,410 and is used to pay for the cost of Cathy's intensive care at a Rochdale nursing home.

The theory of structured settlements in personal injury and medical negligence litigation is that the injured claimant receives a substantial part of his or her award by means of instalment payments for life, rather than the conventional one-off lump sum which is traditionally awarded by the courts.

Whereas any lump sum award is non-taxable, the in-

come arising from investment of such an award is fully taxable in the hands of the recipient. Instalments paid out under a structured settlement are deemed by the Inland Revenue to be instalments of capital and not subject to either income tax or capital gains tax.

The benefits to the plaintiff are obvious, while the quid pro quo for the defendant is that he is able to negotiate a lesser settlement figure because of the tax advantage to the plaintiff. This is termed a win-win situation for both parties.

The ability to negotiate such settlements was initiated by joint consultations between the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the Inland Revenue in 1987, although it was some two years before the first case was completed.

In the five years since the Kelly case there have been some 250 structured settlements in the UK, some of which have incorporated several streams of income to cater

currently suffered by defendants. As well as simplifying the present system for those defendants who have the capacity to structure, the proposed changes would also give powers to those parties such as the Motor Insurers Bureau and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, together with mutual insurers who cannot benefit from the current arrangements.

The report debates extensively whether or not there should be judicial power to impose structures on either party, and concludes that the present voluntary system should remain unchanged.

The last major Royal Commission report on personal injury litigation was Pearson in 1978. Despite its recommendations, no legislative changes were made. That fate should not befall the 1994 version.

IVOR LEVY

● The author is managing director, Frankel Topping Structured Settlements, Manchester. A seminar on structured settlements takes place at the Café Royal on October 19 chaired by Richard Lewis, reader in law, the University of Wales, Cardiff (details: Ruth Hogg, 071-637 4383).

Call the experts

WHEN is a legal expert not a legal expert? Two legal directories claim to list individual specialists in their new editions, but a comparison can leave the reader slightly confused. In the Chambers & Partners directory, well-known crime specialist Monty Raphael and tax expert Stephen Edge duly appear, but they are missing from Legalease's Legal 500. Have they lost their edge? All becomes clear on closer reading: the experts appear in the Legal 500 if they pay for the privilege, whereas the Chambers directory lists basic details for nothing. So while Chambers claims "the lists we have assembled are not exhaustive, but at least they are reliable", the Legal 500 must carry the

disclaimer for its self-selected experts index: "We do not claim that all the partners listed are experts." That's clear, then.

Hunt sabotage

WORRIED about having your partners' heads turned by the siren calls of the head hunters? US firm Latham & Watkins has blazed a trail by getting an injunction stopping a legal recruiter contacting its lawyers. According to the *National Law Journal*, the two parties were embroiled in a fee dispute when the recruiter left a message on the firm's answer machine, threatening that if it "stuffed" him on the fee, he would lure away its top

partners. The firm successfully argued that even the best law firms are "fragile", and a determined recruiter could quickly do irreparable harm.

To the grave

RETIREMENT is no protection from the rising tide of law suits against partners in accountancy firms, according to the accountants' body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The ICA is campaigning to persuade retiring accountants to take out sufficient insurance to cover themselves for several years on potential legal claims. The ICA has found a "worrying rise" in the level of claims against retired partners, who often purchase

only two to three years of past liability insurance cover. It is advising them to buy at least six years' cover so that they will remain insured until claims are old enough to be statute-barred.

Review cue

A NEW guide from the Public Law Project aims to "demystify" judicial review after its finding that only a very small number of lawyers have ever made a judicial review application. Public bodies meanwhile are increasingly making wrong or unlawful decisions which could be challenged in the courts.

The authors maintain that while judicial reviews can be a very effective remedy, the procedures are relatively simple. The guide summarises UK and European law, procedure and practical aspects.

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NEW LAW JOURNAL

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Also this week, leading libel lawyer Patrick Milmo QC alerts readers to changes in defamation action procedure.

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Legal heritage finds a home

Our national law history centre is nearly complete.
Frances Gibb reports

A multi-million-pound project to bring the law and legal history to life is nearing fruition. In just a few months' time, an idea first floated ten years ago will be reality, and Britain's first National Centre for Law Through the Ages will open to the public.

So far nearly £2.5 million has been raised towards the target figure of £3.5 million, and Geoffrey Bond, the campaign chairman, is confident it will succeed. "We will get there," he says. "The building programme is well under way, on budget and on target. What we are looking for now is a white knight to be enthralled by what we are doing here and to embrace it."

The project is ambitious. The idea is not just that there should be a place where legal history can be displayed — artefacts from famous cases, police exhibits, legal documents and judicial costume — but an educational centre where people can learn about the law.

A decade ago, a solicitor in Reading, Geoffrey Goldsmith, first raised the idea of a museum of law in Britain. Despite the influence and history of this country's legal system, none existed. But it was not until a suitable building came up that the idea really took hold.

Nottingham's Lace Market Heritage Trust, which has the task of regenerating buildings in the old part of the city, heard of the idea of a museum of law and saw an immediate use for the Shire Hall, a magnificent 18th-century courthouse with a medieval jail.

The Shire Hall, which was extensively restored in the 1870s, dispensed justice until only some seven years ago, since when it has stood empty alongside the prison, dating from 1449, and place of execution — in use until 1873.

The site for a centre for law could not be better. Below the Shire Hall itself are dingy, cramped sandstone cells complete with arm and leg irons, and poignant graffiti by former occupants before they were transported to hard labour in the distant corners of the empire.

Mich Stevenson, chairman of the



Kate Adie on the site of the new centre — which will give an award in her name — with pupils from Nottingham's Greenwood Junior School

Lace Market trustees, got together with Mr Goldsmith, and what is now called the Galleries of Justice Campaign was born. Geoffrey Bond, solicitor, antiques collector, broadcaster and film producer, seemed the obvious choice as campaign fundraiser. "I am known as the antique lawyer," he says. "I've always been interested in collecting, and I lecture on antiques on radio and television."

They calculated some £3.5 million would be needed to restore the buildings and create, not a museum (that label is in the gift of the Museums and Galleries Commission), but rather a centre based on the refurbished court buildings.

The plan in any case is a far cry from the traditional museum: in line with current museum thinking, there will be an exhibition of law through the ages where visitors can "interact" with exhibits in roles such as jailer, juror or prisoner, and an education centre providing programmes to teach people about the law. Students or trainee lawyers will be able to practise advoca-

cy skills in the courts; school-children can act out trials, hear about the criminal and civil law, and hear from those who work in the police or prisons.

To break even, the centre hopes to attract some 100,000 visitors a year. "It's not to encourage young-

"What we are looking for now is a white knight to be enthralled by what we are doing here, and to embrace it"

sters to become lawyers specifically, but to give them an idea of citizenship and why you have laws," Mr Bond says. The centre is expected to have links with the well-established Citizenship Foundation, which already runs a highly successful mock-trials competition among schools; and it will offer a Kate Adie Court Reporter of the Year award.

Exhibits and legal memorabilia

are already flowing in, along with some sizeable financial contributions. The biggest collection of police memorabilia in this country has been given by Major Ross Simms; there are also uniforms. "I am interested in artefacts from famous cases," Mr Bond says. "Dr

local sandwich bar owner was so impressed that he sent £5,000, while an elderly woman sent £1.

The city council put up the £250,000 purchase price of the Shire Hall; Nottingham County Council and local businesses have chipped in; and both universities in Nottingham have given £100,000.

There is still a million pounds to raise, and Mr Bond is hoping particularly to raise money from the big London law firms as well as from businesses. "If anyone can raise it, he will," he says. "I agree with Roger Pannone (last year's Law Society president) when he said: whose law is it anyway? I don't want to take away from the dignity of the law but I want to make it accessible — I want to persuade people this is not just a fuddy-duddy museum, but an exciting and living place."

● If you wish to contribute, cheques made payable to the Lace Market Heritage Trust can be sent to the Galleries of Justice Campaign, County House, High Pavement, Nottingham NG1 1HF.

Danger: dispute ahead

Early teamwork by professionals can avoid future contract conflict

The perfect contract would contain rock-solid dispute avoidance mechanisms. In reality, of course, it seldom works that way.

"Most clients are so intent on consummating their deal that they are reluctant to give much thought to how to resolve any subsequent disputes," says Christopher Vigrass of the City law firm Ashurst Morris Crisp. "As a result, what often happens is that you get a dispute resolution clause bolted on right at the end of the negotiation which isn't really appropriate for the deal in question."

Mr Vigrass is now campaigning to alert clients to give more thought to dispute resolution at the deal-making stage, in order to save time and trouble later on. Bankers, chief executives and chairmen attended a conference last week hosted by Ashursts specifically to hear how this can be achieved.

"Our view is that you need to develop a comprehensive structure of mechanisms which can be used to resolve disputes and agree these at the front end," Mr Vigrass says. "That doesn't mean there's an off-the-shelf solution. But it's far better to have thought about this in advance than be confronted with it once you are moving towards conflict."

A range of techniques is now available to be used in the structured avoidance of dispute. One of the most important is "expert determination" involving, for example, an accountant, an engineer or a surveyor. "In principle, our audience last week was very much in favour of using this advance-planning, integrated approach," says Mr Vigrass, "but in order to give it real momentum it probably needs the Government to adopt it and act as an exemplar."

The tendency to prevaricate at all times is probably the biggest single obstacle to progress. For example, according to Duncan Locke, a surveyor and partner with the international property consultants Grimley J.R. Eve, he and his colleagues are often brought in too late in the day.

"Almost 60 per cent of our practice is consultancy work with a legal dimension to it, so we know a fair bit about the law. But often we are not allowed to contribute as much to the case as we might," Mr Locke says.

Ideally the surveyor and the lawyers will work as a team. "I've often been in a situation, say over a planning or valuation dispute, where it turns out that I'm the only person who has actually visited the site," Mr Locke says. "Asking the question, 'Have you actually been there?' can inject a degree of realism which is sometimes lacking."

It is when the various professionals involved understand and respect each other's role and expertise that the best results are achieved. Mr Vigrass agrees that good teamwork is critical. If surveyors — or any other professionals — are being brought in as, for example, expert witnesses, they need to be carefully briefed.

"Obviously we can't write their report for them, but we can brief them on how to structure and present it," Mr Vigrass says. Mr Locke points out, however, that there have been cases where barristers have actually tried to rewrite his report. "It could put you in a very difficult position when, in your role as an expert, you are being paid by one side. You have to be honest, but your clients have an expectation that your evidence or judgment will favour them."

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ROCK page 40

No complaints about variety as Frank Black blasts 27 songs in one frantic 90-minute gig

ARTS

CINEMA page 41

Albert Finney's Irish bus conductor: one of the quirky sights at the Toronto Film Festival



Glorious ways to bid farewell to greatness

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the Royal Academy's stylish tribute to the last days of Venice as a political power, when imagination flourished as the city state crumbled

Slowly, but remorselessly, the 18th century witnessed the humiliating death of Venice. Around 1700, the Serene Republic could still pretend to possess the power and splendour of its earlier times. By the century's end, though, its worldly status had been destroyed. Napoleon's Italian victories forced the last of the doges to abdicate, and Venice became nothing more than a magnificent bauble for the Austro-Prussian Empire to play with.

All the same, this cruel economic and political dissolution was accompanied by a paradoxical burst of brilliance in Venetian art. Fired, no doubt, by the stimulus of so many great buildings, frescoes and altarpieces from the past, painters and sculptors defied their city's predicament by continuing to work with unquenchable gusto. Their achievements deserve to be celebrated on the grand scale, and the Royal Academy's autumn blockbuster offers a stylish homage in "The Glory of Venice".

No exhibition can hope to recreate the sheer exhilaration of entering a church or palace and finding its interior transformed by an overwhelming painted decoration spread across walls and ceiling. The most sumptuous and daring works by Tiepolo, the star of the Academy's show, were all carried out on such surfaces. They cannot be transported to Burlington House, but in the very first room welcome efforts are made to evoke Venetian art's high-spirited delight, bombarding the viewer with dizzy skybound images.

Sebastiano Ricci, who found favour in Germany and England as much as his native city, makes an impact in a ceiling picture called *The Punishment of the Rebels* for the Palazzo Marcato. Around 1700, this aristocratic shows the brutal slaying of a Cupid's wings. Venice's dis- traught mother, lies in dramatic foreshortening below, comforted by semi-naked attendants whose nipples are as shamelessly flaunted as her own. But the airborne dynamism of Cupid and his assailant insists on seizing our attention.

Tiepolo, a younger painter learnt a lot from Ricci, both artistically and professionally. He basked in magnificent patronage, and took the theatricality of painting to ever more giddy extremes. Look at the upturning arm of his St Bartholomew, about to be butchered by an executioner's blade. It is an extravagant gesture, hovering on the edge of melodrama. But

Tiepolo was never afraid of risk-taking. Invited by the Spanish Embassy in London to paint a chapel altarpiece of *St James the Great Conquering the Moors* (1749), he had no hesitation in presenting the pilgrim-saint as a virile warrior clenching a victorious banner. Although James looks towards heaven, past the golden halo floating above his head, he is a swashbuckling figure. The sword he brandishes may be converting the vanquished Moor to Christianity, but it could easily slice through the kneeling captive's neck.

Perhaps the gung-ho energy of this hirsute conqueror alarmed the patron, for the painting was rejected. Tiepolo remained unabashed.

Confronted by such a compassionate painting, nobody could dismiss Tiepolo as a lightweight decorator. Nor do we have any excuse, after this exhibition, for continuing to undervalue Piazzetta. A group of his finest canvases has been assembled here, and they testify to an outstanding talent. Little-known in Britain, he may well prove the revelation of the show. Like Tiepolo, Piazzetta was a consummate draughtsman. His close-up chalk studies of faces, often juxtaposing youth with age, are marvels of deft, subtle characterisation. They relate to the playfulness of paintings like *The Fortune-Teller*, where a buxom peasant woman listens to proph-

etic compositions. A prolific and often repetitive artist, he can seem humdrum or formulaic. The finest Canaletto, though, transcend dogged topography.

In *The Bacino di S Marco: looking East*, he surpassed himself. As if spurred by tackling an epic expanse of water, after the relative tightness of his canal views, Canaletto orchestrates the scene with aplomb. There is nothing routine about his inventive disposition of the vessels punctuating the Basin. Some contain gondoliers, and their festive costumes are defined with the relish Canaletto displays in his earlier painting of a plumed, ornate regatta on the Grand Canal. But others are peopled by sombre, often solitary figures, defined with a surprising amount of sympathy for the unglamorous lives of workaday seamen and travellers.

Their hint of melancholy turned out to be prophetic, for the closing rooms of the show disclose a rapidly darkening mood. However much Longhi may divert us with his images of a rhinoceros glumly chewing straw, or masked revellers moving stealthily among intrigued fruit-sellers, he cannot disguise the air of gathering malaise. His *Extreme Unction* conveys harrowing paths in its portrayal of a dying, emaciated old man.

And even the sprightly Francesco Guardi, a far more fascinating painter than his elder brother Antonio, succumbs to the sense of an ending. Decay afflicts the buildings in his seemingly seductive *View on the Cannaregio Canal*. The brooding presence of overgrown ruins recurs in many of Guardi's fluent, loosely handled capriccios, and in one canvas a fire engulfing San Marco appears to threaten the entire city with its ferocity.

By the time we reach Piranesi, obsessed by nightmare visions of oppressive, endlessly proliferating prison interiors, the carnival is over. All we are left with is the glacial perfection of Canova, whose skillful yet oddly bloodless carvings are redolent of the grave. His modello for a *Monument to Titian* could stand as the exhibition's epitaph. As the shrouded figures approach the entrance to a pyramidal cenotaph, they appear to be mourning, not just Venice's greatest painter, but the extinction of the city he loved.

● The Glory of Venice at the Royal Academy (071-439 7438) until December 14



Tiepolo's *St James the Great Conquering the Moors* (1749) epitomises muscular Christianity

Efforts are made to evoke Venetian art's high-spirited delight, bombarding the viewer with dizzy skybound images

and the flow of important commissions never faltered. His nerve was savoured for its freshness, nowhere more surprisingly than in a tall painting of *The Immaculate Conception* for a Vicenza church. True, the Virgin herself is depicted with dignity, adroitly retaining her balance on top of a globe. But Tiepolo even envisions the picture with an outside serpent, greedily holding an apple in its mouth. And the cherubs cavorting around her are cheeky little boys, refusing to be awed by the woman they adorn. Tiepolo revelled in gravity-defying swoops through the sky, and here the restless clouds swirl in an intoxicating spiral over the Virgin's head.

Nobody could convey effervescence with more panache than Tiepolo. But as he grew older, his art developed an unexpected emotional depth as well. In the *Martyrdom of St Agatha*, the executioner, with his blood-smeared blade, still gestures stately enough. But his histrionics affect the image of Agatha herself. Blinded and frowning with pain, she stumps on some steps and gazes at heaven with an air of bewilderment. Although a companion covers her mutilated chest, blood seeps through the cloth and is clearly visible on her sliced-off breasts, displayed on a dish by a solemn page. Tiepolo makes no attempt to minimise her suffering, as she raises both arms in an enfeebled attempt to question the meaning of her anguish.

of her future. The young man, behind her seems to be hearing a similar tale, and the sky, erotic link between them is unmistakable.

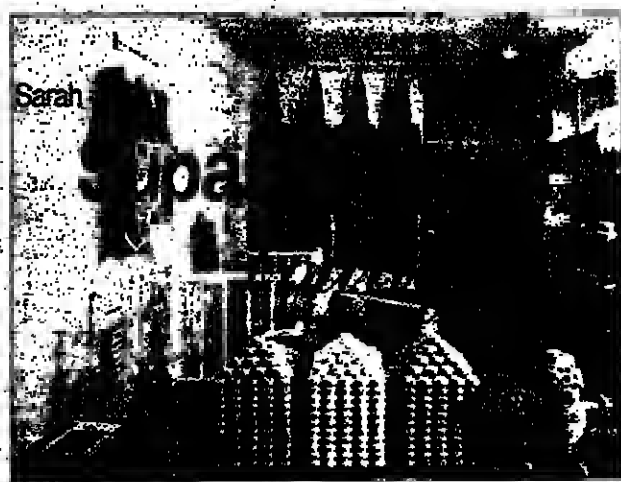
In Piazzetta's religious pictures, however, all this sensual languor is subsumed in profound spiritual feeling. *The Ecstasy of St Francis* lives up to his title with overwhelming conviction. The stigmatised saint has collapsed in a mystical swoon, and leans against the outstretched arm of an angel. But the latter's wings, cloak and robe all seem to be convulsed with emotion, as if possessed by the transfiguring force of God. The same potency charges the cloud invading Francis's right side. He sways under its impact, reliving Christ's passion so fervently that his body assumes the stance of the central, lifeless figure in a Deposition scene.

Extremes of distress and rapture coexist here in an impassioned fusion. But Venetian art in its dying century encompassed far more than Tiepolo's ebullience and Piazzetta's nervous intensity. Avoiding religion and pagan mythology alike, the resolute Canaletto set about scrutinising the face of Venice with as much clear-eyed fidelity as he could muster. At first, he owed a large debt to Carlevaris, whose elaborate marine pageants can be seen in the first room. But Canaletto soon outstripped the older man in the precision of his vision, the delicacy of his brushmarks and the poise of his

SARAH Station is playing shop. The effect is like a cross between a 1970s boutique and a 1990s charity shop. The stock of Staton's "Supastore Boutique" is extensive. There are objects or offerings from artists, friends, from famous artists, and from famous artists who happen to be friends. The current obsession with loyalty to a particular brand — of trainers, say — is reflected here by the art world. This literal marriage of artistic commodity and everyday object shows that there is also artistic safety in numbers. The atmosphere is one of clichey fun. Recognition of the secret signs used for labelling, and the sport of guessing which artist did what, becomes the

whole point. There are precedents for artists who set up shop or open restaurants. Staton, however, has done it in a commercial gallery, in the guise of an exhibition. *Laure Genillard Gallery, 38a Foley St, London W1 (071-436 2300), until Oct 22*

□ Mel Jackson's installation, entitled "... do you, or have you ever?" sparks off a rare combination of associations. The austere space is dark save for a line of small, fine spotlights suspended low on long leads. There is a line of card tables, partially collapsed, facing the wall, as well as another line of tables, a video of a ringmaster, and a continuous glass tube. Such



Open for business — Sarah Staton's wide-ranging "Supastore Boutique" at the Laure Genillard Gallery

description conveys little. The connections between these disparate components are very strange indeed, and remain open long after their spatial relationships have been experienced. Although a little too elaborate, perhaps, the overall effect is fascinatingly enigmatic, depending for its effect on the way that the mind will always attempt to connect and make order out of everything it encounters.

Matt's Gallery, 44 Copperfield Road, London E3 (081-983 1771), until Oct 30

□ A humpen, sliding mass of dulled purple and mauve acrylic, painted by John Hoyland in 1970, sets the agenda for "Surface Tensions". Although apparently short on obvious imagery, most of the contemporary painting here does present an undoubted justification of the process of painting. Jane Harris sets up repercussions and reverberations within the canvas by repeatedly working the even shape of a splash. Angela de la Cruz covers the surface with an intricate but oddly autonomous layer of chalky

white residue, while Marcia Hafif traces a tricky path between detail and generalisation in delicate monochrome. Perhaps the only piece to carry any more external reference is Joan Key's very small painting in which a shadow or after-impression of indeterminate shape glows in almost invisible yellow. *Curwen Gallery, 4 Windmill Street, London W1 (071-636 1459), until October 1*

□ Factual Nonsense would like to be more than just a gallery. Joshua Compston, the organiser, would like it to become an abiding corporate presence, a household name. At the moment, however, it is necessary to telephone in order to view the display of "Other Men's Flowers", a curious combination of Edwardian method and contemporary manners which takes the form of a series of printed letterpress texts commissioned from 15 London-based artists. *Factual Nonsense, 44a Charlotte Road, London EC2 (071 613 5048)*

SACHA CRADDOCK

CONCERTS: A regional venue worth the journey; a happy 70th birthday

A sound investment

CBSO/Rattle Anvil, Basingstoke

FROM the first entry of the woodwind in Rossini's *La Soala di Seta* overture — with a sound that was precise in profile, firm in colour, and immediate in effect — it was clear that there is now a most successfully designed concert hall in a part of the country where there was nothing of its kind before.

Working to a budget a quarter of the size of that specified to the same architects for the new Manchester concert hall, the Renton Howard Wood Levin Partnership has created what looks like a very sophisticated sports hall. Far from concealing the interior roof structure, the architects have made a feature of it and, having only 1,400 seats to accommodate, set them up in one steep rake with no upper tiers and no overhangs. Narrower than the average sports hall, however, it approximates to the classical shoebox concert-hall shape, with walls that divert

from the parallel only where they are inclined inwards at the four corners.

With no more obvious acoustic impediments than reflectors in the corners behind the audience and a canopy above the platform, Arup Acoustics has designed a sound that is essentially truthful. Ironically, if Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra had

attracted a less-than-full house to the Anvil, which would have allowed a fraction of a second's more reverberation, the instrumental colouring would have been just a little more glamorous and the textures more closely integrated.

But that is a matter of adjustment, of understanding that the violins at the front of the platform are less favoured by the acoustics than the wind at the back. Peter Thomas, the soloist in Elgar's Violin Concerto, found little to flatter him here. Adjustments were being made consciously or not, even during the course of the concert. After the interval the strings were already sounding both more attractive and Brahms's Second Symphony was demonstrating that Basingstoke has a hall which offers a rare combination of clarity in texture and generosity in colour.

GERALD LARNER

Old ones are the best

BBC Singers St John's Smith Square, SW1

IN JUST a few of their 70 years, the BBC Singers have progressed far. Even two decades ago it was easy to dismiss the Singers as an outmoded BBC department whose principal duty seemed to be to wobble through the hymns in the *Daily Service* each morning. Now, the group has turned itself into a first-rate ensemble of unique flexibility, as able to take on the apparel of an opera chorus as tackle the kind of contemporary repertoire that would frighten most singers.

In this special anniversary concert, directed by Simon Joly, the ensemble typically gave a hugely challenging programme of 20th-century masterpieces, among which was the world premiere of a work by Iannis Xenakis, *Sea Nymphs*. Xenakis has honoured the choir with something rich, poetic, appropriately strange but substantial; a setting, or rather an evocation,

of Shakespeare's "Full fathom five thy father lies". His language, sharp-chiselled but rough-textured, suits the text well. Unanimous gestures disintegrate into swirling chaos, while his use of extremes of range provide flavours of murkiness, mystery and magic in abundance.

On the other side of the interval was Ligeti's equally challenging *Three Fantasies* for 16 voices, Britten's bitter-sweet *Hymn to St Cecilia*, Messiaen's *Cinq Rechants*, and Poulenc's *Figure Humaine*. All were sung with the marvellous security and astute collective musicianship we have come to expect.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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May the duende be with them

DANCE: As the virtuosi of Cumbre Flamenca prepare for their latest Sadler's Wells season, John Percival talks to the troupe's founder

When the Spanish dance company Cumbre Flamenca opens its fourth season at Sadler's Wells tonight, some of the people who work in that theatre will have a particularly personal interest. They are among the enthusiasts in London who devote their spare time to learning and performing Spanish dances. Francisco Sanchez, who directs the company, says that "the London public seems immediately to understand the message" of flamenco, but he adds that the same is true in towns all over the world.

Cumbre Flamenca must take most of the credit for restoring, after a long gap, the immense popularity Spanish dance enjoyed in London theatres following the Second World War. A whole host of stars led their companies to the West End — Pilar Lopez, Carmen Amaya, Antonio, José Greco among them — and good houses were more or less guaranteed, often for a long run.

One novelty of Cumbre is that it breaks away from the long tradition whereby Spanish dance companies were generally built around the talents of a gifted individual. It also concentrates entirely on one style, that of the gypsies of southern Spain, who took their mixture of sinuous arms and percussive feet from Moorish influences (and perhaps, way back, from India). Both those factors derive from the preferences of Sanchez, who started the group ten years ago.

Born in the southern city of Badajoz, Sanchez was brought up by flamenco. "I felt a shiver when I watched, ever since I was three or four years old," he says. But he studied law, then drama, and during the 1960s and 1970s he got involved as actor, director and dramatist with the independent theatre movement that emerged to criticise the Franco regime.

One of the groups he worked with, La Tabla from Granada, made much use of movement. Through this he found himself in touch with flamenco again, and got carried away. "I began studying and mixing with them," he says, "and found myself spending more time with them, less on my own work."

Flamenco existed first, like all folk art, in informal circumstances: many reckon that it cannot be seen properly except in cafés or caves. Sanchez's theatre background made him believe there was no reason why it should not

work well on stage, but that it needed a theatre person for proper production. This led him to devise the idea of Cumbre Flamenca, a group which would bring together on an equal footing some of the best dancers, singers and guitarists to show flamenco at the highest level. The artists invited might not necessarily be big names with the public, but they would be respected within the profession.

It took three years to persuade the Spanish culture ministry to back the idea, but since the first season in 1984 Cumbre has enjoyed a runaway success. Sanchez puts this down to the powerful nature of a style formed by mixing many different cultures; flamenco is for him "an aesthetic bomb". At the heart of it is what he calls "that famous word *duende*", the moment when the performer is inspired or possessed by an outside force.

To believe that this can happen every night on cue is difficult and raises the question of how genuine the experience can be. Sanchez says that actors study to find ways of achieving this, for instance by Stanislavsky's techniques. "The flamenco performer does not have this training, but the dancer has the great possibility of inspiration in listening to the singers and the musicians talking among themselves."

Having an acquired technique and artistry does not cause problems, Sanchez insists. The pioneers who first transplanted Spanish dance to the stage would agree on that. One of the first (and, according to those who saw her, by far the best) was La Argentina, a child prodigy who retired from a successful career in ballet when she was only 14 to study her native folk dances and refine them for the stage. Her achievements included developing the technique of castanet playing, and she also introduced the practice of dancing to music by composers such as Albéniz, Granados and Falla.

Shall we one day see a return to the diversity of styles which she performed? There is a whole range of dances to supplement the heavy passion of flamenco; lighter, more colourful and elegant. And in Spain they still thrive, as could be seen in the BBC2 programme about sevillanas a few Sundays ago, or in the marvellously exhilarating zarzuela show that played at Sadler's Wells a little while back. Perhaps a new star, eager to show versatility as well as artistry, must



Each member of Cumbre Flamenca is among the best Spain has to offer

come along before this happens again on our stages. Or perhaps an enthusiast like Sanchez, but with different background and tastes, would be enough to achieve it. Meanwhile, October 8.

Sanchez's brand of flamenco is not likely to leave patrons dissatisfied. Cumbre Flamenca are at Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1, 071-278 8910 until October 8.



Frank Black: taking the short cuts to success

The London public seems to understand the message immediately

ROCK: Pixie turns speed king

Wham, bam, thank you, man

Frank Black
Shepherd's Bush
Empire, W12

dragging out an ending. Pretty snatches of melody, nonsense lyrics, unusual chord progressions and odd time changes were all rigorously compressed into three-minute bursts.

From the relatively gentle "Space Is Gonna Do Me Good", for example, they whacked into the recent single "Headache", followed by "I Want To Live On An Abstract Plain", all in about six minutes flat.

An edgy combination of

sophisticated, understated and hyper-energy, the performance scaled several improbable peaks before reaching a natural climax with a dramatic reading of "Los Angeles", followed by "Perry The Wind High, Low", a menacing tom-tom-driven swirl that gradually evolved into a torrent of cross-rhythmic riffing and chanting. It was virtually the only time that Black allowed himself any room for extended manoeuvre and would have made a great conclusion to the performance.

Instead, they ploughed on, and although the rest of the set, including four encores, did not take very long, the momentum had become slightly dissipated. It was nevertheless a powerful and impressive display by an artist in a perpetual hurry. One can only hope that his audience will be able to keep up with him.

DAVID SINCLAIR

LONDON

GEORGE LLOYD CONDUCTS: GEORGE LLOYD, 4 now welcome night of premieres for the composer Lloyd conducts the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of *The Dying Tree*, plus the 1993 orchestral work *Reaching Cloud* and the powerful *Symphony No. 11*. Barbican, St. John's, EC2 071-638 8811. Tonight, 7.30pm.

TWO WEEKS WITH THE QUEEN: Alan Ayckmore directs May Morris's funny and touching play. For family audiences... adapted from the novel by Morris. (Continued on p. 41)

STATUES OF LIBERTY: WHEN THE BARBARIANS CAME: Opening night for two political plays in rep. David Hart manages Macaulay using his cunning to remove a contemporary British government. Don Taylor sets his play in ancient Rome and modern Britain. New End, 27 New End, W1G 0W3. 071-734 0021. Tonight, 8pm and 8.30pm.

TRAFFIC: Fans are all atwitter at the prospect of tonight's start to the long-awaited road, so hotly anticipated. *Witnessed and I'm Caught* have taught the new boys in it the hard old tricks. *Hammerhead* Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, W1G 071-116 6800. Limited availability, 7.30pm.

BEAUTIFUL THING: West End transfer for Jonathan Harvey's award-winning and touching play about teenage love, gay and straight on a London council estate. Royal Court, 136 St. Martin's Lane, WC2 071-836 5123. Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Sept 26, 7pm.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR: Clara Faggins and Harriet Walter as two schoolteachers accused of being lovers by a brutal student. *Uranian* National, Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 071-926 2250. Now previewing, 7.30pm, opens Thurs, 7pm.

THE COUNTRY WIFE: Max Stafford-Clark's slim version of the harsh truths of Restoration immorality. Some laughs included. P.R. Barban Centre EC2 071-638 8811. Tonight, 7.15pm.

DESIGN FOR LIVING: Clive Owen, Paul Rhys and Rachel Weiss in *Coward's* of the marriage a force. The evening is a lot of fun though Sean Mathias jumps the beauty while Owen's only heret. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 071-369 1733. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs and Sat, 5pm.

JOHNNY APPART: Alan Ayckmore's 1978 black comedy about a phenomenally successful "golden couple" whose generosity and kindness have appalling consequences. Robert Harland directs. Greenwiche, Greenes, SE10 081-858 1753. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat, Sat, 2.30pm. Until Oct 29.

THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS: Restaged version of the 1981 show recasting the characters created by Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. David Leland directs. Comedy, Phoenix St, SW1 071-388 1231. Now previewing, 8pm, opens tomorrow, 7pm.

NEW RELEASES

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER (12) Hanson Ford lights Government duplicity and Colombia's drug cartels. Philip Noyce directs the best Jack Ryan adventure so far. Barbican, W1 071-638 8811. Empire, 071-638 8811. MCA, 071-235 0770. Fulham Road, 071-370 3530. Trondheim, 071-434 0031. Notting Hill, 071-727 6700. UCI Whiteley, 071-790 3332.

DAZZED AND CONFUSED (18): High school kids of 1978 fight, fight and philosophy. Mildly disappointing follow-up to *Stokey* from director Richard Linklater. Metro, 071-437 0757. MGM, 071-437 0757. Notting Hill, 071-727 6700. UCI Whiteley, 071-790 3332.

PEEPING TOM (18): Michael Powell's voyeuristic horror film of 1960, alternately clever, dull and unpleasant. With Carl Bohm and Anna Massey. Camden Plaza, 071-485 2443.

SMOKING/NO SMOKING (PG): Ayckmore adapted into French by Alain Resnais: explicitly funny, but the author goes wrong. With Sabine Azéma and Pierre Arditi. Queen West End, 071-439 4803. Odéon Kensington, 071-434 0166.

COLOR OF NIGHT (18): Twisted, lurid and erotic thriller with Bruce Willis as a therapist dogged by a murderer. With Jane March, director, Richard Rush. MGM Chelsea, 071-352 5096. Odéon Kensington, 071-434 0166. End (071-51574) UCI Whiteley, 071-790 3332.

THE HUSKIER PROXY (PG): Hack becomes company boss. Racy comic pastiche from the Coen brothers, starring Tim Robbins, Jennifer Jason

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: The brilliant Japanese parat Mitsuaki Uchida gives the first of two Schubert recitals tonight, beginning with the composer's Sonata in C major D958. In between, miniatures by Schoenberg. St George's Brandon Hill 0272 230559. Tonight, 7.30pm.

WOLING: London City Ballet makes the second stop on its autumn tour this week with a revival of the great romantic ballet *Onegin*, produced by Valery Samoylov. Counter Balance opens the evening, a lively modern work with choreography by Vincent Fordham in two Vivid Vocal Concerts. New Victoria, Piccadilly Arts Centre 0443 781144. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm mat Sat, 2.30pm.

SURINCHAM: Last week of performances here for *The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company*. *Die Fledermaus* may be a depressing and tacky flop but *HMS Pinafore* more than makes up for the disappointment. Strongly cast, sets beautifully designed as 1870s poster-style bars, and all in all very elegant and witty.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

ONLY THE LONELY: Larry Branson in Bill Kenwright's musical on the life and songs of Roy Orbison. The tale song was his first hit but many others will doubtless appear. Piccadilly, Donnan St, W1 071-369 1734. Now previewing. Opens Sept 27.

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD: Thrilling performance by Alistair O'Sullivan in a strong, tough and wild production by Lynne Parker of Synge's comic masterpiece. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 071-359 4404. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until Oct 15.

POOR SUPER MAN - A PLAY WITH CAPTIONS: Ian Brown's Travesty production of Brad Fraser's latest look at a struggling generation of young Canadians. Ian Golder plays a gay painter blocked in his work, Christopher Simon a restaurant owner who helps him. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 071-722 9311. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

THE SISTERS ROSENBERG: Limited run here for the Greenough Theatre production of Wendy Woodson's long play, three actors (Steven Lipton, Janet Suzman, Linda Bradingham) seek happiness. Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 071-328 7010. Opens tonight, 7.45pm; until Dec 10. (If booked one seat in advance)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol () on release across the country

LOVE AND PAUL NEWTON: Galt (071-727 4043) Lushmore (071-358 0681) MCA: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6140) Odéon Kensington (071-434 0166) 914669) Screen/WH (071-435 3386)

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18): Enigmatic sexual tale of sex, power and 1700s. With Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale and to them all. Director, John Dahl. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8888) Metro (071-437 0757) MCA: Fulham Road (071-370 3530) Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Odéon: Swiss Cottage (0426 914669) Phoenix (071-323 2232) Screen/WH (071-435 3386)

WILD TARGET (15): Featherweight French comedy, with Jean Rochefort as a mediocre hitman untripped by love. Director, Pierre Salvadori. MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470)

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN (15): Sensual, well-focused drama about alcohol abuse, deification and after With Meg Ryan and Andy Garcia; director, Luis Mondago. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odéon: Kensington (0426 914669) Screen/WH (071-435 3386) Swiss Cottage (0426 914669) UCI Whiteley (071-790 3332)

WHYATT RAGE (12): Over-the-top and over-the-top with Kevin Costner as the lawman, and Dennis Quaid as Doc Holiday. Lawrence Kasdan directs. MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470) Fulham Road (071-370 3530) Trondheim (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteley (071-790 3332) Warner (071-437 4243)

MAVERICK (PG): Mel Gibson as the TV Western hero. Disappointing summer fun, with John Foster and James Garner. Director, Richard Donner. MGM Trondheim (071-434 0031) Warner (071-437 4243)

WOLF (15): Jack Nicholson's best with finally comes out. Amazing, intelligent western movie, with Michelle Pfeiffer, director, Mike Nichols. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odéon: Kensington (0426 914669) Screen/WH (071-435 3386) Swiss Cottage (0426 914669) UCI Whiteley (071-790 3332)

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WILD TARGET (15): Featherweight French comedy, with

Toronto blessings in abundance

Geoff Brown joins the film buffs whose insatiable appetite at the Toronto Festival meant packed houses all round

Want to see Albert Finney as a twinkling Irish bus conductor with a passion for Oscar Wilde? Curious about the new John Sayles, recent Indian cinema, the latest delight from Guinea-Bissau, or a three-minute jest by a Canadian film-maker glorying in the name of Velcrow Ripper? Sorry, all seats are sold out, though the line for returns starts here.

At the Toronto International Film Festival, an eager and generous audience gathers for almost everything the programmers offer. In between screenings, film buffs choke the coffee shops, clutching pen and schedule, planning their next sortie. This year, improved facilities for advance ticket sales have significantly reduced the need to queue. An improvement? Not necessarily. Queues are where Toronto's cinema vampires meet their soulmates and sharpen their fangs, discussing the latest American hot-shot or the merits of early Truffaut. Entombed in the dark most of the day, they need this human contact.

The nineteenth edition, which ended on Saturday, contained fewer Hollywood big guns than usual. Some American talents appeared in strange, but not unwelcome, places. John Sayles, well known for his mordant studies of American social behaviour, washed up off the Irish coast with *The Secret of Roan Inish*, an entrancing blend of folk myth and realism with a cast of fisher folk, seals, gulls, and Selkies — legendary Celtic creatures, half-human, half seal.

Yet at second glance this fable chimes with some, at least, of Sayles's concerns. He has always loved the spinning of tales, the sound of people talking, and this adaptation of a Rosalie K. Fry novella pays full homage to Ire-

land's oral tradition. Though children lie at the heart of the drama, the film cannot be placed in a pigeon-hole for kids, while hardened adults might well find the tale too slight. Whatever its fate in the marketplace, *Roan Inish* remains a beautiful piece of work.

As Sayles polished his Irish brogue, William Hurt appeared in Wales wearing curly ginger hair, frightful specs, a V-necked pullover and a light Welsh accent. All this was in aid of Chris Menges's new film *Second Best*, based on David Cook's novel about a lonely village postmaster struggling to connect with the prickly child he hopes to adopt. It may seem strange to hire a Hollywood star only to obliterate most of his charisma, but Hurt's laidback manner survives in the film, and suits the character well. Some of the mood shifts are disconcerting: Jane Horrocks's social worker looms like a Mike Leigh caricature. But there is still much to enjoy in this wry, sensitive drama.

As with most film festivals now, for true cinematic excitement you had to head east. Tsai Ming-liang's Taiwanese entry *Vive L'Amour* arrived in town trailing clouds of glory from the Venice Film Festival, where it shared the Golden Lion with Milcho Manchevski's over-contrived *Before the Rain*. Tsai made his international reputation with *Rebels of the Neon God*, a violent, stylised portrait of Taipei adolescents. For his second, almost dialogue-free film, the violence is transformed into intense sexual longing as the paths of a woman estate agent, a young salesman of crematorium niches and a street merchant intersect in ways variously comic, erotic and sad. Lonely lives in the modern city have become something of a cliché, but Tsai's rigorous control produces an electrifying film that cries out for British distribution.



Albert Finney as an Irish bus conductor coming to terms with the love that dare not speak its name in a whimsical mishmash of a film, *A Man of No Importance*

So, too, does Chingking Express, a deliciously frisky Hong Kong diversion from Wong Kar-wai, cult director of *Days of Being Wild*. Wong's hand-held camera darts about, sometimes slowing to produce blurred images that almost turn the film frame into an action painting. Not that technique dominates; with performers as lively as Tony Leung Chiu-wai (one of two loveable cops) and Faye Wang (a fast-food employee obsessed with the song "California Dreaming"), you take the quirky characters straight to your hearts.

After that rollercoaster ride, hopes were high for another Wong film: *Ashe's of Time*, a long-planned martial arts costume drama entered in competition at

Venice. Alas, they soon faded. Wong's stylistic somersaults give the eye much to delight in, but even the press handout's synopsis could not make the plot comprehensible.

Other cinematic adventures were scattered through Toronto's huge programme. The "First Cinema" section, devoted to fledgling filmmakers, amassed a bewildering heap of experimental flings, quasi-TV movies, slick American pieces of nothing, and the occasional film of real quality. American screenwriter Mark Malone repackaged film noir conventions with a pleasing dry wit in his directorial debut, *Killer*. Steve McLean, from the realm of British pop videos, offered an intermittently powerful show-off piece, *Postcards from America*.

The most startling debut feature of all played in another section entirely. James Gray's *Little Odessa*, another Venice prizewinner, was given the festival's gala treatment: an evening screening at the gilt-drenched Elgin Theatre. The film itself, from a 24-year-old New Yorker, matched the building in visual spectacle. Using a palette of dark, silky colours with sudden flashes of winter snow, Gray vividly conveys the Russian immigrant community of Brooklyn's Brighton Beach, where crime proliferates in the bars, cafes and dilapidated alleys.

This is a family saga more than a gangster shooting match, though a clearer sense of why the killings happen could help the film to

cohere. A few less wailing Russian choirs would also help the soundtrack. But Gray shows astonishing authority for a novice director: even actors such as Vanessa Redgrave, Maximilian Schell and our own Tim Roth (the family black sheep, a robot with a gun) never unnerve him.

As for Albert Finney, up he duly popped in BBC director Suri Krishnamma's cinema debut *A Man of No Importance*, regaling passersby on the 24A bus with Wildean tibbts, stalling *So I am* in the local church hall, and coming to terms with the love that dare not speak its name. Any festival that could deliver a packed house for such a whimsical mishmash has no box-office worries at all.

THEATRE: Thuggery in a New York ghetto, suffering in a Yorkshire community, rows in a Restoration household and bigotry on a South Coast beach

Torn between two Bronx brothers



Mickey (Thomas Goodridge) and Alexander (Andrew Fraser)

ACCORDING to Mickey, narrator and protagonist of this curiously old-fashioned play, the Bronx died the day Martin Luther King was shot, when the blacks rioted and attacked the whites, most of whom in this neighbourhood were Jews. Once upon a time, they got along together fine. Mickey's mother (Pat Bowe), who cleans and cooks for a Jewish family, has nothing good to say about the Irish or Italians. "But the Jew's a different breed altogether. More human. Almost a black."

She wants young Mickey (Thomas Goodridge) to emulate them, learn the piano, visit museums, keep in with Billy Kornblum (Nizan Sharron) and quit running wild in the streets with Alexander, self-titled "the great" (Andrew Fraser). The trouble is,

The Day the Bronx Died Tricycle

Mickey feels torn. Alexander is his mate, his blood brother, and even when he starts going to the bad in the company of Freddie Anobile-Dodoo's evil Prince (given a gun for his fourteenth birthday), how can Mickey cut the ties?

Several factors combine to make Michael Henry Brown's treatment of this predicament unconvincing. For one thing, the Bronx streets are weirdly lacking in adult blacks, so that Mickey has no-one to aid him in his moral dilemma. For another, the story is framed within a contemporary episode involving a further slaying. The 40-year-old Mickey

(Ewen Cummins) has made it good, and now lives in the fashionable Manhattan apartment block where his mother once worked. But he has disconnected himself from the dangerous city below, you see. Only when his young son is attacked does he start to remember the past.

A surgeon gives him reports of his boy's lack of progress from time to time, but mostly we are back in 1968, before the Bronx died, when the brave choices were not made. At the end, Cummins delivers the play's message, to the effect that we must stand up and be counted.

Another oddity is that, although Brown is black, his play is a product of New York's American Jewish Theatre and directed by Gordon Edelstein. Joint efforts by members of the different com-

munities to address their city's horrors is implicit in the final message, and neither black nor Jew is spared the accusation of cowardice, but the play manipulates us, its tone is propagandist, the incidents narrowly contrived to provoke a required response.

Bafflingly, Alexander makes a brave choice, back there when the Bronx was dying, and knocks the gun out of the wicked Prince's reach. But the lesson in this, if indeed there is one, is not welded into the drama. Performances by the preponderantly young cast are decent enough. The message that actually comes across is that King's death was irrelevant: the Bronx was already killing itself and young black thugs were entirely responsible.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Small talk of a troubled family

THIS is the third of Richard Cameron's plays to be premiered here, and after inviting a schizophrenic woman's multiple personalities into the open in *Not Fade Away*, he has returned to the South Yorkshire environment he wrote about in *Pond Life*, his excellent study of adolescents in a small village.

This time he focuses upon a single family, the Wheatleys, some members of whom have been responsible for an accident at Mortal Ash Ponds, which has led to their becoming victims of a hate campaign. A brick has been thrown through the living-room window and Chris (Richard Standing), the elder son, has returned home to repair it. The garden aviary has been burnt to the ground, and at the start of the play Duane (James Hooton), the dimmish younger son, is staring dolefully at the wreckage.

What occurred at Mortal Ash takes a long time to emerge, and even at the end I was not sure exactly what had been bulldozed or why. Nor did I fully grasp the mental workings of the father — Paul Copley, for whom the phrase "dour Yorkshireman" could have been coined. But what Cameron's writing does present clearly is the allusive, fragmentary nature of family

talk, where much remains unmentioned for fear of provoking a row, yet where rows keep erupting simply because of this fear of beginning them. Dialogue is sharp and authentic. Cameron has already established his alert ear for young people's talk, and he reveals a comparable skill for the guarded, and unguarded, disputes between them and their parents. He also achieves two remarkable feats in allowing the proudly reticent older couple the chance to unburden their feelings. Notice how Jane Cox, the mother as prickly as a porcupine, gradually relaxes as she remembers her dead father. In the core confrontation between Chris and his father, watch Copley grading his hands in rage and frustration, biterly glimpsing a past he does not want to examine.

Simon Usher's direction masters the intricate cross-relationships in this troubled, loving family and is particularly good with the signs of unease. Cox nervously edges her feet back before venturing to ask her man a tricky question. Jane Hazlegrove (a fine performance as the watchful daughter, Rainy) seems to take in everyone else's shifting emotions as she stares from the background.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The Mortal Ash Bush

Zesty, testy marital romp

SIR John Brute — John Nettles festooned in a periwinkle and *Bergerac* quite forgotten — is in a periwinkle buff. "Everything I taste, methinks, has wife in it," he declares, kicking off Sir John Vanbrugh's surprisingly, if not a little shockingly, funny Restoration comedy. Finely accoutred but ill-natured, his voice rich-toned but coarse-grained, Brute is a husband. That, as he makes no bones about zestily and testily confiding to the audience, is his bane. His wife of two years, he claims, is a torment.

Next moment, we witness him making this patently angelic spouse's life hell. Then, scarce has the beastly pig stalked out for some mistress and a skintful of claret, than our lovely Lady Brute (Katherine O'Toole, pale-chiselled but with a wicked streak) is informing us with warm intimacy that it is high time for some adultery.

Happily, the new marriage of eight leading British thespians, from Newcastle's Theatre Royal to Richmond, augurs well. Although not faultless, the Touring Partnership's first production is not a million miles from its ideal: generating large-scale, top-quality drama for the regions. Fofini Dimova set stylishly frames the action within slati-

topped oak panelling (albeit not perfect for outdoor scenes) and has impressive surprises up its fly-tower, including a dreary four-poster bed.

Stuart Burge directs refreshingly wisely. Maxims about nature and art and suchlike abstractions, normally rattled off as if 17th-century aristocrats permanently had to dash, but here delivered at a leisurely pace without a fluster, of mannerisms, become clear-headed arguments.

Vanbrugh's storyline is scandalously rickety. Still, there is a certain surreal preposterousness, not to mention crude significance, about the knight suddenly stuffing himself into his lady's dress and being arrested as a common bawd. Peter Salem's score intensifies atmosphere and smooths scene changes. Louise Kerr supplies delightfully unlikely trifling as Cornet, the misery-guts maid.

Paul Love's Lady Fancyfull is a tiresomely careless caricature of jealous vanity: a vague blur of waved arms. Paul Venables's Heartfree seems a muddled character, dissipating energy. However, Rebecca Lacey's Belinda, his bride-to-be, is compactly pretty and plain-spoken.

KATE BASSETT

Vultures of the yob culture

Sturm and Drang/Brighton Beach Scumbags Riverside Studios

MY ADVICE is to arrive roughly an hour late, by when the first of these playlets should be over. *Brighton Beach Scumbags* will not greatly surprise those familiar with Steven Berkoff's other variations on what Mr Major calls our yob culture: but it won't bore them either. *Sturm und Drang*, on the other hand, is the sort of piece that makes counting the hairs in your eyebrows seem stimulating by comparison.

Berkoff has used rhyming couplets, and probably even quatrains, to mock-heroic effect before now. But in *Sturm und Drang* the words clomp and trudge, labouring point after point as if in wellington boots. Timothy Walker's smartly suited Simon idealises Sasha; Berkoff's Nick, another member of the merchant-banker classes, takes a more cynical view; and the lady herself, in the form of Katy Carmichael, launches into a glowing description of a lurid movie. But why her callousness should give Simon a ravenous appetite for oysters rather than, disillusioning him, I neither know nor care. The longbeards in *Scumbags* are fewer and anyway more justifiable, since the subject is



From left, Badland, Berkoff, Carmichael and Jenn, having a bit of fun at the seaside

pleasure, British-style. If the characters were a little more upmarket, they would probably be found spending their days off in some lay-by, forlornly drinking tea. As it is, they come from Chingford, belong to the assembly-line classes, and prefer to sprawl in deck-chairs on Brighton beach, tossing out four-letter words and used beer cans.

They make quite a sight in their tacky holiday gear, especially Berkoff's Derek, who sports blond teddy-boy hair as well as a tattoo and striped shell-suit bottoms. Slouched and scratching his crotch, he bickers with his scowling wife, Annette Badland's Dinah, and chats desultorily with their

friends, Michael Jenn's bullet-headed Dave and Katy Carmichael's dim Doreen. The subjects range all the way from motorways to traffic cones, Paki shops to dolphins. Only the arrival of some hamburgers and a wasp interrupt the verbal drizzle.

Patronising stuff? At times I thought so. Certainly, the piece seemed to lack the energy and attack of the section of Berkoff's recent *One Man*, in which the actor-author played both a raging East End slob and his raging East End dog. But then came conflict in the form of a second brush with the two homosexuals whom Derek and Dinah had seen earlier in a Brighton

pub. The homophobes give one of the gays a kicking; the gays take reprisals which leave Berkoff slumped among piles of empty cans.

That is no more than he deserves; yet the play is not altogether one-sided. The straights may think the homosexuals are "filthy faggots". The gays think of these particular straights as "dumb beasts", mindlessly angry because they are trapped in dull marriages. The incomprehension is mutual, and so is the unfairness. And this time I cared enough to feel I hadn't squandered the evening.

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Three hours of summer lightning

Vitas Gerulaitis, who has died at the age of 40, will always be remembered for a match against Bjorn Borg one glorious June evening at Wimbledon in 1977. This is how Rex Bellamy, then the tennis correspondent of *The Times*, described it

Bjorn Borg, the holder, and Jimmy Connors, champion in 1974, yesterday qualified for the Wimbledon men's singles final tomorrow. Borg's 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 8-6 win over Vitas Gerulaitis in three hours and four minutes was a Wimbledon classic — challenging the glittering memory of Stan Smith's win over Ilie Nastase in the 1972 final.

A year ago, Gerulaitis beat Arthur Ashe, who was then the champion. Yesterday he almost did the same again. In the fifth set, he had a point for a 4-2 lead, but stayed back on his service and when he eventually charged to the net was off the mark with a forehand volley. Both men later agreed that this point was critical. Borg broke back for 3-3 instead of going 4-2 down.

In the eleventh game, Borg, serving, three times heard the umpire call "deuce". Again the champion was teetering on the brink of a plunge to oblivion. But three games later, somehow mustering his drained resources for a huge effort, he set about Gerulaitis's service and broke through for the match. A job, cruel in its perfection, reduced Gerulaitis to 40-15 down. On the next point he attacked — which is in his nature in any situation and was essential now — but again misdirected a forehand volley. Different versions of the same shot, the forehand volley, thus let Gerulaitis down.

In the way of statistics, those will suffice. Beauty should be enjoyed, not measured. But how to describe this sample, save in terms of three dazzling hours of summer lightning? On the whole, grasscourt tennis is not the best. But during matches such as this (if only they happened more often), it achieves a splendour that cannot be surpassed. Borg said later that he had taken part in only one match of higher quality — against Rod Laver in the 1975 World Championship Tennis play-off series, on a carpeted court in Dallas.

A reasonable man would not think it possible for two tennis players to maintain such precision at such high speed under such pressure over such a long period. The sustained quickness of footwork, reactions and racket control was astonishing.

It mattered not that — save for Borg's rocking walk, his headband, and his two-fisted backhand — he and Gerulaitis might have been brothers. They gave us plenty of variety: drops and lobs, sudden changes of pace and angle, to punctuate all the whirling, pounding agility and aggression. At times the geometry they created almost happened too fast to be properly savoured. Yet the entire match was dominated by earned points: in a context that insisted there must be a host of hasty errors.

He was gambler and acrobat in one, relying on his quick reactions

ed there must be a host of hasty errors.

These two know each other well. They are friends and practise together. Their personalities are complementary — Borg the introvert, Gerulaitis, the extrovert. Gerulaitis, at 22, a year the senior, was born in Brooklyn of Lithuanian stock and popped over to Europe earlier this year to win the Italian championship on clay. He is wealthy enough to indulge in fast, expensive cars. He owns two Rolls-Royces, a Mercedes and a Porsche. But car or no car, the man has powers of acceleration no other tennis player exceeds.

Gerulaitis put the accelerator flat down at 4.55 and kept it there until 7.59. He kept dashing to the net and relying on his quick reactions to deal

with anything Borg threw his way. Gerulaitis was gambler and acrobat in one. When he opened up the court and put away a winner, he often held the pose for a moment — grinning, relishing the joy of a moment in time. When serving, he made none of the fashionable fuss. He just looked at Borg; then aimed and fired.

Borg was younger, but looked older. They say he has ice in his veins. He certainly needed something like it yesterday. The storm Gerulaitis blew up was intimidating. Often, Borg was on the baseline, quietly preparing a stroke when there was no warning of danger; and suddenly there came into his peripheral vision the figure of Gerulaitis, bounding eagerly to the net with his blond hair flowing.

But Borg never flinched, never showed the slightest sign that his nerve was weakening. He said later that he was so anxious to reach the final that he was a little nervous, a little inhibited about hitting hard. But he always had more soundness and versatility in his ground strokes and, eventually, the composure to recoil from adversity to triumph. Whereupon Gerulaitis went to the interview room and chatted happily about all the funny things that had come into his mind while he was playing at Wimbledon: "I didn't want to waste all this material. It's my winning speech..."

Except for the fact that neither man served exceptionally well, this was a perfect example of grasscourt tennis at its best. We shall never know how Borg and Gerulaitis kept it up. But we were grateful that they did; and we shall remember them.

□ Two days later Borg beat Jimmy Connors in the final to claim the second of his five successive Wimbledon titles.

Body discovered, page 3
Obituary, page 21



Gerulaitis leaves Centre Court after his epic Wimbledon semi-final against Borg in 1977

Moses considers returning to track

EDWIN Moses, the double world and Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, is considering returning to competition at the age of 39 and after six years in retirement. "I ran the hurdles recently for a [television] commercial and I felt pretty good," Moses said. "The technique is as good as ever. I think I could still run under 48 seconds. The way things are in my event, I could still beat a lot of guys."

Moses retired with back pain following the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988 and was frustrated in a bid to qualify for the American bobsleigh team for the 1992 Winter Games. He said back pain does not hinder him, but full training might be too much. "It's tempting to go back," Moses said. "I haven't trained at all for two years, but if I could find a way to train with no pain, I would do it."

Moses is expected to be named to the United States Athletics Hall of Fame when results of voting are announced later this week.

Phil Hawthorne

RUGBY: Phil Hawthorne, an outstanding rugby union and rugby league international for Australia, died on Sunday after a three-year fight against leukaemia. He was 51. Hawthorne played 21 rugby union internationals at stand-off half for Australia over five years from 1962, making his international debut at the age of 18.

He helped Australia to victories over South Africa, New Zealand, England and Wales during that period. Hawthorne signed a four-year contract to switch to rugby league and he played three internationals against Great Britain in 1970 before he was beset by injuries. "Phil occupies a very special place in Australian football history," Alan Jones, the former Australia rugby union coach, said.

Walsall appoint Nicholl

FOOTBALL: Chris Nicholl, the former Southampton manager, was yesterday named manager of Walsall, of the third division. Nicholl, dismissed by Southampton in 1991 after six years at The Dell, has taken over from Kenny Hibbit, who was let go three weeks ago. The former Northern Ireland central defender has accepted a 12-month contract and will be in charge for the first time for the Coca-Cola Cup second-round tie against West Ham United at the Bescot stadium tonight.

Lomas leads England

TABLE TENNIS: Lisa Lomas will lead England in their opening European Women's League match in the super division at Ashford, Middlesex, tonight. The England No 1, from Luton, who is ranked nineteenth in Europe, will be partnered by Andrea Holt, of Lancashire, and Alison Gordon, of Berkshire. Poland should provide England with a comfortable warm-up for their next game against Sweden, particularly as the Poles will be missing their top doubles pairing of Alina Mikijanic and Jolanta Szatkó.

Couples seals win

GOLF: The United States captured the inaugural Presidents Cup on Sunday, winning when Fred Couples birdied the 18th hole to beat Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, by one hole. The point gave the United States an unbeatable 17-9 lead in the 32-match event over the International team comprised of non-Europeans, which was played on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Virginia. The United States eventually won by 20 points to 12.

British women excel

TENNIS: Mandy Wainwright and Emily Bond, of Britain, overturned the rankings yesterday to qualify for the £100,000 Moscow Open. Wainwright, Britain's No 1 junior from Chingford, beat Caroline Dherin, of France, 6-3, 6-4 in the final qualifying round and now faces Petra Begerow, of Germany. Bond, 20, from Gloucestershire, qualified for her first WTA Tour event after saving three match points to defeat Nanne Dahlman, of Finland, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5.

Premier league plan under fire

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SECOND division rugby league clubs are mustering significant opposition to a sixteen-team premier league from next season. Their veto of the proposal could herald a long-festering breakdown by leading clubs.

The plan requires a two-thirds majority of the 35 member clubs of the Rugby Football League (RFL), a figure beginning to look optimistic. As well as severing their financial lifelines, the proposal would reduce the voting rights of clubs outside an elite league.

Realising they could be sanctioning their own demise at the special meeting of clubs a fortnight tomorrow, the smaller clubs are determined to make their possible last full votes count. It is a double-edged sword, however, as supplanting the RFL's proposed premier league would almost certainly cause the existing first division to break away.

The RFL is determined to avoid this scenario, with Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive, arguing that the best interests of the game is served by the first division remaining with the main body. This failed to prevent the second division clubs yes-

terday calling a separate meeting to organise opposition.

The need for change identified in a report called *Framing the Future* is not disputed. However, the speed of change and financial implications for those down the scale are disputed. After taking early soundings, Malcolm White, the Swinton chairman, is confident the premier league proposal will be rejected.

"The original meeting at Wigan to announce the plan was a set-up," White said. "It's wrong all the money will be channelled to the top clubs and that they should have two votes to our one. That would give the big clubs carte blanche to do whatever they want."

It is an opinion apparently shared by a number of second division clubs. The RFL's proposals are a political compromise to try to get approval for its premier league, but instead of immediate closures and amalgamations, which the smaller clubs had feared, they see themselves being slowly bled dry.

□ Graham Lowe, Wigan's former New Zealand coach, has been appointed coach of Western Samoa for the World Cup in October next year.

Funding found for masters of mud

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S cross country runners are to be allocated £30,000 to prepare for the world championships in Durham next March. The British Athletic Federation (BAF) payout follows a dismal showing at the world championships in Budapest last season, when British teams failed to win a medal from the four races.

"It is recognition that we need to look seriously at our endurance runners," Matt Frazer, the secretary of the BAF, said yesterday. "In spite of some good performances this summer from Rob Denman and one or two others, overall we seem to be in a low

period in terms of our endurance running."

Britain used to dominate cross country, but for the last two seasons, performances at the world championships have sunk to an all-time low.

Endurance squad funding has been in operation in other European countries for some time and the federation recognition that it needs to step into line is welcome. Last year, the cross country budget was a mere £40,000. Coaching received £1,000.

The £30,000 for Durham — the first occasion the championships will have been held in Britain since 1983 — is in addition to the cross country

commission's annual budget. It will be spent, Frazer said, on squad weekends, competitive experience abroad for juniors, and medical assistance. None will be used to entice athletes to run in the world championships.

"That has been a debate, but the answer is no," Frazer said. However, he was encouraged that Denmark had indicated that they wanted to make the British team.

Denmark, who prefers fast going, may be put off, however, once he discovers that the five-lap course contains a big hill. However, it is to be hoped that his interest remains in tact because, in the Bupa Great North Run on Sunday,

he revealed hidden depths of strength.

In his half marathon debut, Denmark recorded 62min 37sec to add a British championship bronze medal to his AAA 10,000 metres title, Commonwealth 5,000 metres gold and European silver medal this summer. He is to rest for a month and has ruled out competing in the European cross country championships in Alnwick, Northumberland, on December 10.

There will be no British trial for Alnwick. Selection will be based on assessment of summer and early-winter form and teams will be named on November 12.

Mansell admires dream team from afar

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA

GOODBYE to America, to K-Mart, Texaco, turnpikes and oval speedways. Nigel Mansell may still have one more race to go before he ends his exile in the United States and returns to Formula One but there was an air of finality about his last oval race here on Sunday.

Mansell clinched the IndyCar series here a year ago however, on Sunday, Mansell was reduced to the role of glorified spectator as the Penske "dream team" of Paul Tracy, Al Unser Jr and Emerson Fittipaldi accelerated away

from him. Their domination this year is unprecedented in the history of this sport: they have occupied the first three places in races five times this season and Unser Jr claimed the championships ten days ago in Elkhart Lake.

The Penskes finished four laps clear of the field in the 200-lap race and Mansell, who retired after 95 laps, was unabashed in his admiration. "They are a joy to watch," he said.

"They can drive anywhere on this track. It was very, very impressive. If a little frustrating."

Penske's dominance — which has contributed to the Newman-Haas team's

worst season — has heightened interest in off-track machinations. Everyone knows Mansell is on his way back to Formula One for the last three races of the season in Spain, Japan and Australia, but there was speculation here after the race that Tracy might join him.

Tracy, whose position at Penske next year is in doubt, has been tipped to replace Mansell at Newman-Haas, but he was approached by Benetton over the weekend to test for them after Sunday's Portuguese grand prix in Estoril. "I have to ask Roger Penske's permission to do that but I am certainly interested in the testing," Tracy said.

South Africa may turn to Woolmer

WARWICKSHIRE'S unique achievement of winning a county cricket treble of championship, Sunday League and Benson and Hedges Cup was reflected in the confirmation yesterday that their director of coaching, Bob Woolmer, is on a shortlist of three for the post of South Africa's national coach (Marcus Williams writes).

His rivals are Eddie Barlow, the former South Africa all-rounder, who has coached or managed Gloucestershire, Orange Free State and Transvaal, and Duncan Fletcher, a former Zimbabwe batsman, who has coached Western Province for one season.

The South African cricket board wants "a highly qualified technical coach". Barlow is seen more as a motivator, so Woolmer's greater experience — he has had five seasons with

Boland as well as four with Warwickshire — may get him the vote when he is interviewed in Johannesburg on Friday. The decision will be announced the following day.

"It would be a tough wrench to leave Warwickshire after we've achieved so much, but I've stated before that my ambition is to coach at the highest level," Woolmer said yesterday. "Somehow, I would like to combine the two jobs and maybe a deal could be done." Woolmer has one year of his contract with Warwickshire to run.

As the English season drew to a close, the Australians, led by their new captain, Mark Taylor, arrived in Pakistan for a seven-week test match series that will also include South Africa.

British Assurance county championship

LANCASHIRE v Leicestershire
OLD TRAFFORD, Lancashire (4pts) drew with Leicestershire (5) in the first of two matches in the British Assurance county championship. First innings 208 (P E Robinson 64; G Chappell 5 for 50).

Second innings
P E Robinson 64; G Chappell 5 for 50.
N E Briers not out 30
T J Bloor not out 30
C J Lewis 86; R P Davis 5 for 50.
Total (1 wkt) 87

FALL OF WICKET: 1-88
BOWLING: Martin 10-4-20-1; Chappell 7-1-24-0; Barnett 4-1-16-0.
LANCASHIRE: First innings 208 (P E Robinson 64; G Chappell 5 for 50).
Leicestershire: First innings 208 (P E Robinson 64; G Chappell 5 for 50).
Second innings
P E Robinson 64; G Chappell 5 for 50.
N E Briers not out 30
T J Bloor not out 30
C J Lewis 86; R P Davis 5 for 50.
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Worcestershire v Leicestershire

Worcestershire (4pts) drew with Leicestershire (5) in the first of two matches in the British Assurance county championship. First innings 208 (P E Robinson 64; G Chappell 5 for 50).

Second innings
P E Robinson 64; G Chappell 5 for 50.
N E Briers not out 30
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Total (1 wkt) 87

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

HOROPTO

(a) A small, aromatic, evergreen New Zealand tree, *Pseudotsuga australis* — Pepper-tree, from the Maori name. "A straggling shrub, with bright green shining leaves, resembling those of the nutmeg-tree; and a profusion of rich and delicate blossoms, looking like waxwork. The natives call this plant horopto."

KANGA

(c) Indian corn, *Zea mays*, the New Zealand word, also *kaanga*, from the Maori. "Indian corn received the name of kanga, the Maori form of the word corn. A unique method of utilizing it as food was evolved. The unhusked cobs were placed in fenced enclosures in still water where the grain became soft."

MAESTRIA

(e) Skill or mastery, the Italian word for mastery. "Sir Charles can occasionally be persuaded to recede to the 'Volge Boatman's Song', which he sings with incomparable maestria." "While admiring the maestria of this piece of writing by Mr Shaw I find in it several inaccuracies."

MOLALE

(b) A Penutian Indian people of Oregon, a member of this people, also, their language, the native name. "Hale established this family and placed under it the Cailoux or Cayuse or Willetoos, and the Molale. The Molale were a mountain tribe and occupied a belt of mountain country south of the Columbia River."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qh6, threatening 2. Ng6 mate, is unanswerable, e.g. 1... Bf7; 2. Qf6+ Kg8; 3. Rg1+ mating swiftly.
1... Qd1 mate was Ivanchuk's extraordinary oversight.

Results from company golf days

The five top scorers in the individual standard competition played on the company golf days listed below now complete the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

1. R Morrison 57pts; 2. G Brown 58; 3. T Bailey 59; 4. P Davidson 60	1. P Brooker 54pts; 2. J Blythe 55; 3. B Bulman 51; 4. M Jackson 60
1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54	1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54
1. J Smalley 48pts; 2. T Spencer 41; 3. A Eble 39; 4. R Stone 37	1. J Smalley 48pts; 2. T Spencer 41; 3. A Eble 39; 4. R Stone 37
1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51	1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51
1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53	1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53
1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54	1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54
1. P Brooker 54pts; 2. J Blythe 55; 3. B Bulman 51; 4. M Jackson 60	1. P Brooker 54pts; 2. J Blythe 55; 3. B Bulman 51; 4. M Jackson 60
1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54	1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54
1. J Smalley 48pts; 2. T Spencer 41; 3. A Eble 39; 4. R Stone 37	1. J Smalley 48pts; 2. T Spencer 41; 3. A Eble 39; 4. R Stone 37
1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51	1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51
1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53	1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53
1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54	1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54
1. P Brooker 54pts; 2. J Blythe 55; 3. B Bulman 51; 4. M Jackson 60	1. P Brooker 54pts; 2. J Blythe 55; 3. B Bulman 51; 4. M Jackson 60
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1. J Smalley 48pts; 2. T Spencer 41; 3. A Eble 39; 4. R Stone 37	1. J Smalley 48pts; 2. T Spencer 41; 3. A Eble 39; 4. R Stone 37
1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51	1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51
1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53	1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53
1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54	1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54
1. P Brooker 54pts; 2. J Blythe 55; 3. B Bulman 51; 4. M Jackson 60	1. P Brooker 54pts; 2. J Blythe 55; 3. B Bulman 51; 4. M Jackson 60
1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54	1. M Payne 48pts; 2. G Hutchinson 55; 3. N Brooks 54; 4. T Bell 54
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1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51	1. P Fallon 55pts; 2. M Mann 53; 3. M Knowles 53; 4. N Vennart 51
1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53	1. R Marshall 50pts; 2. L Whitley 57; 3. T Wright 57; 4. P Morris 53

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Colombians still overshadowed by World Cup failure

Martin Keown, the Arsenal defender, must wonder what the future holds after his manager, George Graham, so eagerly attributed not one but two own goals to Keown in the game against Newcastle United on Sunday. But at least there is a future.

Nobody has had time to forget the fate of poor Andrés Escobar, the Colombian whose own goal against the United States during the World Cup in June was paid off with a hail of bullets into his body as he left a restaurant in Medellín after returning home. Last weekend, two brothers, Juan and Pedro Gallón Henao, jailed since early July on charges of setting up the murder in retribution for heavy betting losses, were released by the prosecutor general. The officer now says there is insufficient evidence against them, though their release is conditional on a payment of about £1200.

The Colombian affair wrangles on. Many of the team that lost to the United States, such as a gifted group of individuals but so disparate and apparently indifferent to defeat on that day, have been threatened, abused and reviled. Faustino Asprilla, the lanky centre forward, escaped somewhat with his move back to Parma, the club leading Serie A in Italy. Indeed, Asprilla has gained a measure of personal revenge against the hapless American centre back, Alexi Lalas, scoring twice against his club, Padova.

But back in Medellín they still say Asprilla is a drunk-

ROB HUGHES
Overseas View

ard. They still accuse Fredy Rincón, now with Napoli, of lying down in the match. But when Rincón was recently in London he responded to the blunt question of what happened to Colombia that day with the enigmatic retort: "We were not players that day, we were brothers."

And so it goes on. Francisco Manzurana, who resigned as coach to Colombia after the World Cup and who, along with one player in the side that day in California, received a faxed death threat, has now the dubious haven of working for Jesús Gil, the most fickle president in Spanish football, at Atlético Madrid. Manzurana's team managed, at last, to arrest their run of defeats on Sunday, and the educated coach says what his players need now is "work on their mentality, to make them believe they are better."

The Latin Americans often play things to the extremes. Julio Cesar, the Brazilian sweeper, who used elegance rather than brute force throughout his career, had seemed to have almost a charmed existence. For over a decade he had graced the field in Brazil, in France and, until this summer, in Italy, with Juventus. When Juventus proposed to sell him to Borussia Dortmund, he made little fuss

Blissett, football and Fakenham Town

Russell Kempson
discovers a former
England striker
sampling non-league
life in rural Norfolk

Luther Blissett now appears for "The Ghosts", Fakenham Town, who occupy the grounds of Baron's Hall Lawn in north Norfolk. His presence is far from ethereal yet has caused a distinct stir in a community more noted for its agricultural excellence than Jewson League prowess. Humble surroundings for a forward once sold for £1 million, but he remains unashamedly motivated.

Blissett has played in front of the seething masses of the San Siro, when he spent a year in Italy with AC Milan. He has graced Wembley, when he marked the first of 14 England caps with a hat-trick in the 9-0 lashing of Luxembourg. He has experienced the tension of a League Cup semi-final and savoured the success of promotion when Watford were creating such sweet music under the guidance of Elton John and Graham Taylor.

Yet playing at Fakenham Town — more than 100 years old, Norfolk Senior Cup winners last season, average home attendance 150 — is not much different. Honestly, "There are 11 of you in one colour shirt and 11 in another," Blissett, who has scored five league goals in seven games this season, said. "That's all you really see when you're out on the pitch and that's the way I've approached games throughout my career. It's just the same now."



A familiar face. Blissett looks on from the dugout after being injured playing for Fakenham earlier this season

"When the whistle blows, you concentrate on your job. That's it, it's a job. When the ball goes out of play and you have a quick look and see only a few people scattered around, you might think to yourself: 'Hmmm, this is a bit different.' That's it, though. Nothing else."

Financially, Italy and East Anglia are universes apart. When in Milan, for the 1983-84 Serie A season, Blissett earned £1,000 a week. Now, he is happy to accept £25 travelling expenses. No fuss, no "don't you know who I am" routine, no problems.

"Luther has brought a new enthusiasm to the club," Nolan, Kealey, the Fakenham manager, said. "I wish all my players were like him. He still has a great love for the game and has already helped to raise the standard here. You get good and bad former professionals and Luther is definitely one of the good ones."

Blissett's stay may be brief, though. A nomadic existence last season — Bury, Mansfield Town, Southport, Derby City and Wimbome Town — has hastened an urge to

settle. He is playing in Fakenham — a rural market town, population 8,000 — because of his friendship with Tony Fisher, the club chairman and a regular golf partner. Yet, if the chance arises to return to the Football League — as a player-coach, player-manager or whatever — he will grasp it.

He has a full Football Association coaching badge, has made the shortlists at

'If the chance arises to return to the League, he will grasp it'

various clubs and was interviewed for the recently vacant manager's job at AFC Bournemouth, but, again, drew a blank. Mel Machin got it.

"Sure, you get frustrated," Blissett, 36, said, "but it lasts only a few days. I've still got my businesses to look after and that helps take your mind off other things." He owns a sports shop in Bournemouth and runs a

promotions company in Watford, where he lives.

Disappointments have been few during his 21 seasons in the paid ranks and are recalled more with amusement than dismay. "Perhaps I should have given it another year in Italy," he said. "I had a chance to go on to Torino, but decided to come back." He scored five goals in 30 games for Milan and rejoined Watford for £500,000 — half the fee he left for.

His final match for England — a 2-0 defeat against the Soviet Union at Wembley in 1984 — also raises a chuckle. "Bobby Robson [the then manager] told me I'd done well ... and never picked me again," he said. "God knows what he thought about the other guys."

In the meantime, second-placed Fakenham take on mid-table Watford at Baron's Hall Lawn tonight. Nobody knows how Fakenham acquired their ghostly nickname, and some still question why Blissett wants to play for them, but the player in the No 10 shirt is no apparition. It is no self-indulgent glum-mick, either. "It's just great to be involved again," he said.



Blissett in his playing heyday, leading England's attack at Wembley in one of his 14 internationals

Walker still waiting for Southall's version

EVERTON tackle Portsmouth in the second round, first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup at Goodison Park tonight looking for their first win of the season and with manager Mike Walker investigating allegations that Neville Southall made obscene gestures to supporters in the weekend draw with Queens Park Rangers.

"If I had seen the incident myself, I might have taken action already, but as it is I will ask for Neville's version first," Walker said.

"I cannot comment until I have spoken to Neville, but if he was responsible, I will be disappointed. Nobody likes to get caught, but you have to be professional."

Southall has come under pressure from supporters in recent games but Walker added: "At the moment, I have no plans to get a goalkeeper."

Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, is expected to make one change from the team that won at Chelsea on Sunday, for the tie with Birmingham at Edwode Park. Jason Wilton returns from suspension to replace Mark Atkins. Birmingham will show at least four changes from the team that beat Peterborough 4-0 on Sunday. Gary Bull and Brian Small, who are both on loan, are ruled out because Nottingham Forest and Aston Villa respectively do not want them cup-tied. Jonathan Hunt and Gary Poole are ineligible, having already played in the competition.

Middlesbrough, beaten for the first time this season at Port Vale on Saturday, are again without their player-manager, Bryan Robson, for the short trip to Scarborough.

Scott joins Towers for crucial fixture

BY NICHOLAS HARKLING

KEVIN Cadle may be dissatisfied with his new club's form, but victories in their first two games have enabled his London Towers to set up the first important game in the Budweiser League season.

Towers receive the champions, Thames Valley Tigers, at Wembley on Thursday in a fixture that may influence the positions at the end of the season. With his squad yet to gel, which is hardly surprising seeing that it includes two new Americans and several unfamiliar Englishmen, Cadle believes that the addition of one further newcomer, Kenny Scott, the 6ft 9in Englishman, is unlikely to increase the lack of rapport among his players.

Scott, who has been playing for Polisy in the French second division, watched Towers beat Hemel Hempstead Royals 67-52 on Saturday and saw their 85-55 home victory over Sunderland on Sunday. He should receive his international clearance in time for the game on Thursday.

Towers were helped in their second game by an injury that restricted Russ Saunders to eight points. The normally prolific American scored 34 points the previous night in Sunderland's 87-72 defeat at newly promoted Sheffield Sharks.

The Yorkshire rivals, Doncaster Panthers, were responsible for the inglorious baptism in the Budweiser League of Harvey Goldsmith's Leopards. The club, which has yet to receive clearance for its Americans, Henri Abrams and Robert Youngblood, lost 65-55.

Cup place eludes struggling Lopez

By PATRICIA DAVIES

NO NANCY Lopez. That is the sad omission from the line-up that will represent the United States in the Solheim Cup match against Europe at The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, from October 21-23.

Lopez, still the most widely recognised name in women's golf, has struggled for form this year, and, in the end, JoAnne Carner, the US captain, gave her one wild card to Kelly Robbins, 24, from Michigan.

"Kelly has played good, steady golf the last couple of years," Carner said. "She's won three times and she's a long-ball hitter and I took that into consideration because The Greenbrier is long and tight."

"I was waiting to see if Nancy Lopez would come out of her slump but she never gave any indication that she could be playing well by the Solheim Cup."



Lopez: loss of form

It was, in essence, a non-contentious choice, for Robbins, not quite in the Laura Davies class for distance but quite long enough, was tenth on the Solheim Cup points list — the top nine were chosen automatically.

Michelle McGann, next on the list, automatically became the travelling reserve, an abhorrent position made necessary by the crash decision, American-inspired, to play all ten team members in each series, not just the singles. So much for allowing for strategy, loss of form, even strength of character.

The Americans believe the new system will suit them, and their strength in depth is demonstrated by the fact that nine of their team, Beth Daniel, Dottie Mochrie, Donna Andrews, Tammie Green, Sherri Steinhilber, Robbins, Meg Mallon, Patty Sheehan and Betsy King, are in the top 11 on the US money-list.

The exception is Brandie Burton, at 22 perhaps the most talented of the lot but also worryingly injury prone, who was languishing in thirtieth spot.

Burton, King, Sheehan, Daniel, Mallon and Mochrie all suffered during the un-

Scully and Coyote set fierce early pace

By BARRY PICKTHALL

DAVID Scully, of the United States, and his yacht, Coyote, led the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race last night after setting a blistering pace since leaving Charleston, South Carolina, at the start of the 27,000-mile race on Saturday.

His Roger Martin-designed 60-footer was speeding along at 11 knots, a full knot more than his closest rival, Steve more than his closest rival, Steve Pettengill, also of the United States, sailing Hunter's Child. However, with just 33 miles separating first from fifth within the 18-strong fleet — little more than two hours' sailing time in the fast-reaching conditions encountered so far — any breakages would transform the race order.

Mark Gatehouse, whose eight-year-old design, Queen Anne's Battery Marina, leads the British challenge in sixth place,

complained yesterday: "These new boats are rocket ships. With apparently no effort, they just ease along about ten per cent faster than us 'cruising boats'."

However, Gatehouse's yacht, which is now equipped with a large mizzen rig since winning this race under Philippe Jeantot's guidance, is proving no slouch either. In idyllic surfing conditions, Queen Anne's Battery has topped 17 knots and maintained a 13-knot average during much of Sunday, which was enough to open a 25-mile advantage over Josh Hall's Garmore Investment Managers.

In class two, David Adams and his Australian 50-footer, True Blue, is proving the boat to beat. Adams has opened a 31-mile lead over Alan Nabauer's Newcastle Australia.

Simone Bianchetti, of Italy, sailing Town of Cervia, is one of several competitors suffering difficulties. Auto-pilot problems forced him to return to Charleston within six hours of the start and he was still firmly tied up to the dock yesterday making repairs to his steering and chasing a leak that had developed in his boat.

LEADING POSITIONS (at noon yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): Class One: 1. Coyote (D Scully, US), 6,314 miles; 2. Hunter's Child (S Pettengill, US), 6,325; 3. Escorial Pottery-Chenieres II (J Autouart, Fr), 6,330; 4. Verde Enterprise (J van den Heede, Fr), 6,341; 5. Santa Calixton (C August, Fr), 6,343; 6. Queen Anne's Battery Marina (M Gatehouse, GB), 6,378; 7. Garmore Investment Managers (J Hall, GB), 6,404; 8. Bon Vie (J Provoyeur, SA), 6,414; 9. Thursday's Child (A Taylor, US), 6,437. Class Two: 1. True Blue (D Adams, Aus), 6,286; 2. Vincenzina Austro (A Nabauer, Aus), 6,426; 3. Jinnade II (N Vaughan, GB), 6,428; 4. Kodak (G Scuderi, It), 6,446; 5. Shaver-Doherty II (M Sella, Ger), 6,454; 6. Sea Catcher (N Rowe, GB), 6,462; 7. Cornwall (R Davis, GB), 6,526; 8. Proteus (D Seale, N Patterson, SA), 6,529; 9. Harry Hambrover (H Michell, GB), 6,538.

TITLE HOLDER

ROAD HOLDER

MICHELIN PILOTS SECURE UK RALLYING CROWN

Michelin Pilot Team Ford seized the 1994 British Rally Championship following Malcolm Wilson's stunning win in the Manx International Rally.

It gives Wilson the UK title while team mate Stephen Finlay finishes as runner up. It also maintains the team's unbroken run of victories in the series confirming Michelin as top tyre choice for rallying.

The same winning performance is available on the road with the Michelin Pilot range of

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Scotsman, an Irishman and an alien

The Japanese (you remember — small, industrious, fear-some race with hilariously incomprehensible language) have been at the forefront of television technology for as long as anyone can remember. But we British (stiff upper-lip, general deflection in coming second, that sort of thing) are far from idle.

For while the Japanese busy themselves on the next great step forward (said to be a cross between a homing pigeon and a remote control unit), the BBC has just about perfected its own big break-through — the Nican digital stereotype. Yes, Rab C. Nesbitt (BBC 2) is back.

Struggling off the Sunday night drubbing he recently received at the hands of the milk-mannered Inspector Wycliffe, Gregor Fisher — one-man mission to reduce the Scottish population to a fistful of cultural clichés continues. Out go the beard and boots of *Tales of*

Para Handy, in come the stubble and string-vests of Govan's gutter philosopher.

The new series, the fourth, found Nesbitt exploring ever-greater depths of misfortune. His long-suffering wife, Mary, has finally had enough — "all I've ever had from you is poverty, hardship and desperation". Aye, agreed Nesbitt, but delivered in a "cheery, twinkling, roguish sort of way". In less time than it takes to say "two pints of heavy", Nesbitt is back at his "tea, bags and telly — if it wasn't for Richard and Judy she'd have snuffed it years ago".

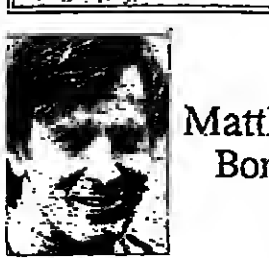
If ever there was a programme that divides people it is *Rab C. Nesbitt*. It is popular with the Scots largely, I suspect, because it conveys the English. And it is popular with some English largely, I suspect, because they are the sort who gain a smug satisfaction from feeling they are as fluent in the street

patois of Govan as they are in German or Greek. That just leaves the rest of us to struggle with the machine-gun delivery of lines such as "you'd need to take a pair of nutcrackers to my aortic valve to get my heart to open up". At best it's mystifying, at worst alienating.

But translating difficulties apart, the real question is whether *Rab C. Nesbitt* is funny at all. "I'll just slip into something more appropriate," promised the man-bunging and presumably myopic divorcee who dragged Nesbitt home from his first singles' club. "How about the change of life," mutters our silver-tongued hero. Must be the way he tells 'em.

Over on BBC1 Paul Rhys gave full vent to the new stereotype technology with his performance as Dr John Lassiter in part one of *The Healer*. Dr John, as his hand of faithful followers called him, is the bog

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Irishman personified — all twinkling eyes and twinkling tongue. But his gifts extend beyond the gab to a pair of healing hands.

Dr John may not have believed in prescribing drugs to patients at Sparrow Hill Teaching Hospital, but he dispensed plaudits with abandon. "Sure, our hero is never foolish," he told a worried mother in the sort of brogue that normally

guarantees a job on Radio 2's breakfast show. He also has a salient word for her ailing son: "Nothing is ever as bad as we fear." *The Healer*, however, comes close.

This had little to do with the acting. Stereotyped it may have been, but Rhys is suitably compelling in the central role and he is supported, particularly by Nicky Henson, who as Dr Ralph Raeburn is a splendidly evil face of conventional medicine. Hilary Mason too, as Dr John's patient turned landlady, gives a fine comic performance, albeit straight out of *The Ladykillers*.

No, my problem lies with G.F. Newman's script, written presumably to remind us that modern hospital medicine is more to do with big business than healing people. But by introducing a healer of Dr John's apparently awesome power (dead brain-stem — just give me a couple of minutes)

he weighs the advantage too heavily with alternative therapies. Game, set and empty medicine cabinet surely? Well, perhaps not. Part one concluded with Dr John contemplating his latest miracle on a lofty balcony, looking perilously close to the sun. Sadly, I for one was past caring whether the wax melts tonight or not.

It is not just the BBC which is making headway with stereotypes. American broadcasters are no slouches either, although they prefer to talk about sticking with a successful formula. For *X-Files* (BBC 2) the successful formula is the FBI agent with a passion for the paranormal. Sounds familiar, huh? The programme clearly owes a big debt to *Twin Peaks* and is not ashamed to acknowledge it. In the first few minutes we'd have been nighted maidens rushing through wind-blown and curiously backlit pine forests to meet a

sticky end. "It's happening again," said the sinister local sheriff. "It's the owls," we all shouted back.

Actually this time round it wasn't, although that might have proved more fun. Nor did it turn out to be the strange humanoid found in a coffin with a small bit of metal lodged up its nose. Was this the first evidence of inter-stellar cocaine abuse? Quite possibly — the object was last seen being consigned to the X-Files, where the FBI buries evidence of the paranormal. Next to a mouldy piece of cherry pie.

Bananas, not cherries, starred in the first of Harry Hill's Fruit Fancies (BBC 2), a short series of silent-ish, black and white films shot very much in the style of Eric Sykes's *The Plank*. The series has been labelled "surreal" — critic shorthand for I'm not really sure if this is funny. Bananas wasn't, but some of the later ones. The first pick 'n' mix series has arrived.

BBC1

- 8.00am Business Breakfast (62681)
- 8.00 BBC Breakfast News (31182759)
- 9.05 Kids on Kilroy. Young people discuss juvenile crime (1010391)
- 9.30 A Word in Your Ear. Verbal communications game show presented by Gordon Burns (38114)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8915643) 10.05 Liberal Democrats Live from Brighton. Employment and Charles Kennedy's last address as president of the Liberal Democrats on the agenda. Includes, at 11.00 and 12.00, News, regional news and weather (27931812) 12.55pm Regional News and weather (1812352)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (73136)
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (53710833) 1.50 Turnabout. Game show (s) (8342681)
- 2.20 FILM: The Silver Fleet (1945, b/w) starring Ralph Richardson and George Wiltshire. Second World War drama directed by Vernon Sewell and Gordon Wellesley (8223730)
- 3.50 Chucklevision (s) (8328556) 4.10 The New York Bear Show (s) (2598951) 4.15 Run the Risk. Game show (s) (2222198) 4.35 Conan the Adventurer (7521402)
- 5.00 Newsround (125952) 5.10 Grange Hill (s) (Ceefax) (s) (8707488)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (289372)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (391)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (643)
- 7.00 Hi-De-Hi Holiday camp comedy series (s) (Ceefax) (4407). Wales: Six of One
- 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (827)



The African elephant under scrutiny (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Savage Paradise. A wildlife documentary reflects on the world of the elephant in East Africa. (Ceefax) (s) (388576)
- 8.50 Bird in the Nest. The struggle for survival of a family of robins living in an outthrust in Bristol. (Ceefax) (187556)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2198)
- 9.30 The Healer. The second and concluding part of the drama about a doctor with a strange gift (s) (533881)
- 10.25 Dirty Wars. Gavin Hewitt talks to the men who have laundered hundreds of millions of dollars through British Caribbean banks. (Ceefax) (s) (203372) Northern Ireland: County Times 10.50 Smithfield 11.15 Dirty Money 12.00-12.30am Come Dancing
- 11.05 Come Dancing. The United Kingdom v Poland. (Ceefax) (s) (683914)
- 11.40 FILM: Fatal Bond (1991) starring Linda Blair and Jerome Elster. Drama about a girl who becomes the prime suspect when young women are murdered in every town that the victim visits with his companion. She begins to think that she is next on the list. Directed by Vincent Mott (89885)
- 1.00am BBC Select: Executive Business Channel. Scrambled (49515)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 8.55am-10.00 Anglia News (505001) 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (157023) 1.25 A Country Practice (5371458) 2.30-3.20 Breakfast News (5117407) 3.25-3.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 4.10-4.40 Shortland Street (452010) 4.45-5.20 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (5371458) 5.45-6.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 6.05-6.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 6.35-7.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 7.05-7.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 7.35-8.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 8.05-8.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 8.35-9.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 9.05-9.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 9.35-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 10.05-10.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 10.35-11.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 11.05-11.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 11.35-12.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 12.05-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 12.35-1.00 Anglia News and Weather (895632) 1.05-1.30 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Ferguson courts trouble as cup toll spills over

By Peter Ball

UNLESS they have had a change of heart overnight, Manchester United are on course for another collision with the authorities by fielding a weakened team in the Coca-Cola Cup. Alex Ferguson has seven of his reserve team players on call for tomorrow's second-round tie with Port Vale at Vale Park.

How many will play, the manager will decide this morning. Nicky Butt, who made an impressive full debut against IFK Gothenburg in the European Cup Champions League match last week, seems certain to be included, along with Gary Walsh, the reserve team goalkeeper, who is fit again after an appendix operation.

They will be joined by Roy Keane, who will make his first starting appearance since returning from the World Cup. Brian McClair, too, will play, but thereafter places could be filled by five of Butt's former youth team colleagues, Paul Scholes, Keith Gillespie, Gary

Neville, David Beckham and Simon Davies. The programme of games last week, against Leeds United, IFK and Liverpool, is an illustration of the pressure on United this season. With the Champions League format putting ever-increasing demands on leading players, Ferguson is determined to ease the burden.

"It's an ideal opportunity to bring them in," Ferguson said yesterday. "They were on the bench for the European Cup last week, and I consider they are all first-team players. There may be a problem playing them all together, but I have faith in them, and they've got to play sometime."

Whether the Football League, whose auspices the competition comes under and whose regulations require that clubs field their strongest sides, will see it that way is questionable. With a 22,000 sell-out crowd, it will certainly not please Port Vale, whose supporters, bought tickets in

the expectation of seeing Giggs rather than Gillespie. Cantona rather than Scholes. Last season, United fielded a much-weakened side at Stoke City at the same stage, and lost 2-1 before winning the second leg. The league held an investigation on that occasion but took no action. It is, however, an intractable problem for both club and the authorities, and one which is unlikely to go away.

The returns of Keane and Walsh, whose displays at the end of last season made him a challenger to Peter Schmeichel for a place in the European Cup team, will give the game added importance for United. Keane still suffers from his groin injury after training. "He is clear of any damage so it is time for him to play through it," Ferguson said. "He needs games if he is going to be ready for the European Cup next week."

Everton, who meet Portsmouth tonight in the Coca-Cola Cup desperately in need of a win, acted promptly to smooth their supporters' displeasure at a gesture from Neville Southall, the Everton goalkeeper, at the end of the game against Queens Park Rangers on Saturday. Although nobody in the main stand saw the incident, David Mellor's phone-in programme on Radio 5 was inundated with calls of complaint.

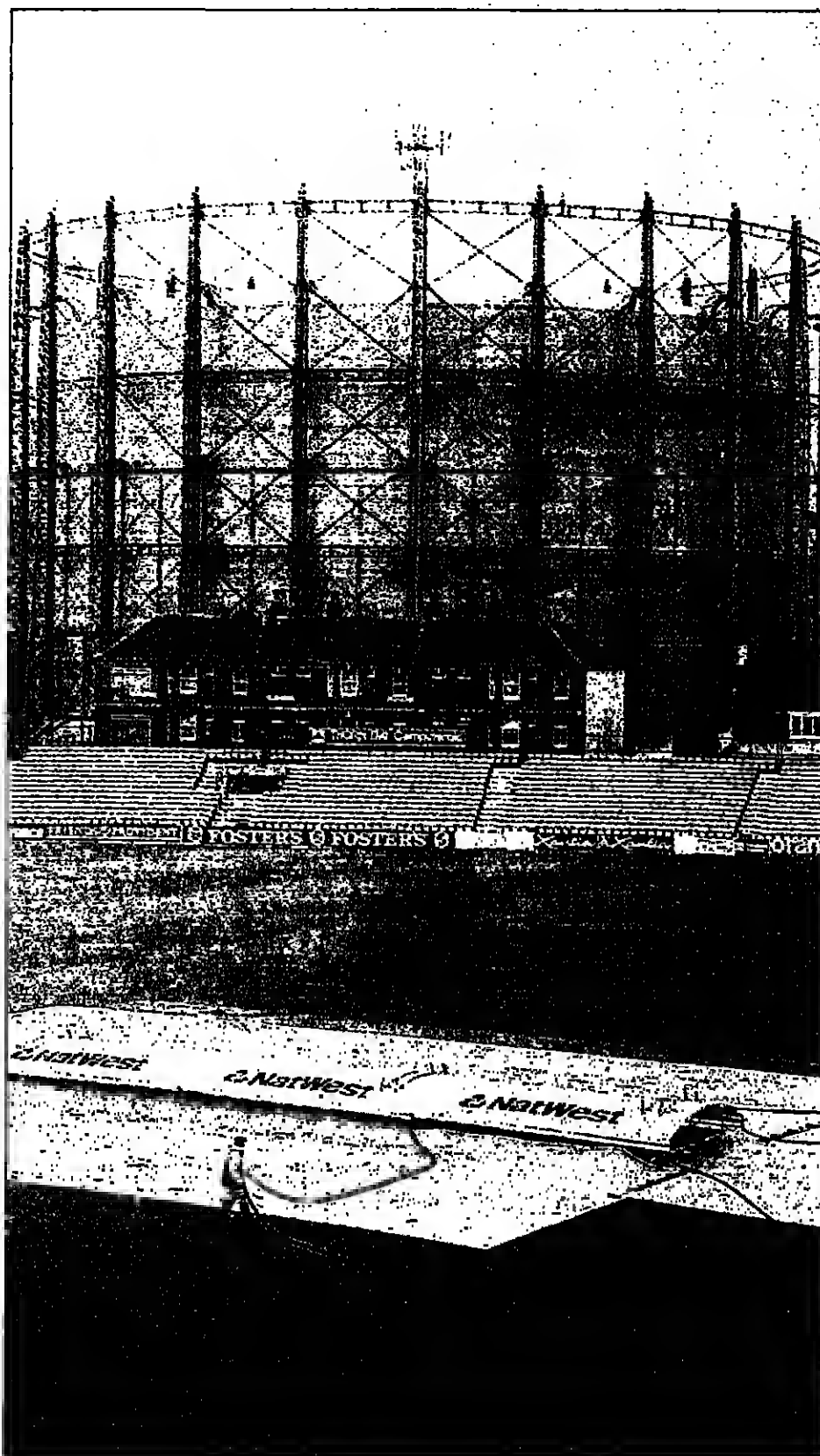
Yesterday, Mike Walker, the Everton manager, said after seeking an explanation from Southall: "The matter will be dealt with appropriately." Southall may be fined a week's wages, around £4,000.

Trevor Francis would like to do more than that to the Hillsborough mole, who leaked stories to a Sunday newspaper of a player revolt aimed at installing Chris Waddle in place of the Sheffield Wednesday manager.

Yesterday, Francis held a meeting with the first-team squad, who were quick to express their support for the manager. "I was stunned by the story," Francis said. "In terms of character and spirit, the present group is the best in my time here."

Overseas football, page 45
Ghost Blissett, page 45

Season trickles to close



The bleak scene at The Oval yesterday, when the first-class cricket season trickled to a watery close. Rain allowed only 14 overs to be bowled at Old Trafford and none at all in the eight other Britannic Assurance county championship matches. Warwickshire had long been assured of the title, so prize-money for the minor placings remained to be settled. Leicestershire held on to the runners-up position, worth £24,250. Nottinghamshire finished third (£14,000) and Middlesex, the 1993 champions, fourth (£7,250). Northamptonshire squeezed ahead of Essex to claim the £3,700 for finishing in fifth place. The season will be remembered for Warwickshire's record-breaking achievement of three domestic titles; only the NatWest Trophy, in which they were beaten finalists, eluded them, victory going to Worcestershire. Indeed, Warwickshire and Worcestershire dominated the limited-overs competitions, contesting both Lord's finals and filling the top two places in the Sunday league.

Photograph: Des Jensen

Williams sign up Hill for third term in driving seat

By Our Sports Staff

DAMON Hill will drive for Williams-Renault for a third successive season next year. Frank Williams, the Formula One team director, announced yesterday. But the question of whether Nigel Mansell is to become his long-term partner at the Didcot-based grand prix team will not be revealed until the end of the world championship.

Mansell, the former champion, returns to drive for Williams in the last three races of this season having completed his second term of IndyCar racing in the United States.

He could help Hill clinch a crown which has been thrown wide open by Michael Schumacher's two-race ban.

Hill reduced Schumacher's lead by winning the Italian Grand Prix at Monza and another triumph in the Portuguese Grand Prix this Sunday will reduce the deficit to a single point.

Now comes the flip of knowing his future is secure. Hill said yesterday: "There is no question in my mind that the Williams-Renault team will provide me with a winning car again in 1995. I am therefore extremely pleased to be confirmed to drive for my third successive year with the team."

Hill, the test driver for two years before that, stepped up when Mansell left last season, his first full appearance on the circuit, he won three times.

This time he has four wins, one resulting from Schumacher's disqualification after the Belgian Grand Prix, and now he will have Mansell as his partner for the European Grand Prix at Jerez on October 16, the Japanese Grand Prix on November 6 and the Australian Grand Prix a week later.

Williams, however, made it clear: "No further announcement regarding the 1995 driver line-up will be made until after the end of the 1995 season."

On Hill's future, Frank Williams said: "Everyone in the team is delighted Damon will be with us next year. Apart from winning seven races for us, he has made many other invaluable contributions towards the team both in and out of the car."

Hill's partner at the start of

the season was Ayrton Senna, the three-times world champion, who was killed at San Marino in the third round of the season. David Coulthard stepped in — the exception was the French Grand Prix when Mansell made a "guest" appearance — and will race his final grand prix of the season at Estoril.

Mansell won the IndyCar title last year but has yet to win a race this season, and has said he will not return to the circuit next year.

Mansell, who has said he has no plans to retire, has also been linked with possible drives for Lotus, Ferrari or Benetton next season, although none of the three possibilities is considered likely.

Schumacher has been un-



Hill's future settled

happy to see his world championship lead whittled away, but despite much speculation, that he was seeking a change, the German driver has said he is 99 per cent certain to remain with the British-based Benetton team.

A memorial to Ayrton Senna will be unveiled at Estoril race track before the Portuguese Grand Prix on Sunday. Senna spent a great deal of time in Portugal and won his first grand prix at Estoril in 1985. The marble monument will be put up near a bend bearing Senna's name and will bear an inscription echoing his "own words" about death.

The inscription reads: "When our last day has come it will come. It will come."

South Africa enter World Cup bidding

SOUTH Africa has expressed interest in staging the World Cup finals in the year 2006, the International Football Federation (Fifa) said yesterday.

Fifa has received a letter from the South African Football Association (Safa) expressing an interest in hosting the tournament. South Africa is the second candidate, after Germany, to announce its intention of applying to stage the tournament.

The World Cup finals have never been held on the African continent but leading Fifa officials, including Joao Havelange, the president, have suggested the tournament could go to Africa in 2006 if a suitable bid emerged. South Africa are due to host the rugby union World Cup finals next year.

Asia is the likely venue for the football World Cup for the first time in 2002 with Japan and South Korea both bidding for the right to host the finals. □ Brian Horton, the Man-

chester City manager, has reacted to reports that Everton are interested in Niall Quinn by declaring that the Ireland international is not for sale. Everton are back in the market for a forward after Muller, the Brazilian international, rejected a move to Goodison last week. Although Horton preferred Uwe Rösler, the German player, for the 1-1 draw with Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday he said: "I am not in the business of selling my best players, and Niall is in that category."

□ David White, the Leeds United winger, will be sidelined for a minimum of three weeks with a heel injury. White, who missed the match at Coventry City on Saturday, was injured during Leeds's 2-1 victory over Manchester United last week. The former England international has had his heel put in plaster and joins Tony Dorico (knee) and David O'Leary (Achilles tendon) on the injury list.

Solving problems in the serious business of sport

BALL games used to be governed by such simple, neat aims. All you had to do to beat your opponent was put a ball down a hole in fewer attempts, kick a ball into a goal more often, score a greater number of runs. These days, with competitors so highly trained and highly paid, the things that separate them are more finely drawn, as two bizarre announcements yesterday confirmed.

One of them emerged from the world of limited-overs cricket, an entertainment in any case designed to swing from one run, wicket and catch to the next. The other came from the world of football, an attempt to end the days of the reviled penalty shoot-out.

One-day cricket should be hit-and-giggle, cheer-today gone-from-the-

mind-tomorrow stuff, but, when you put a lot of money at stake, participants, spectators and administrators are apt to take it more seriously. Look at the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy finals this season: both times, the teams that lost were forced to bat in difficult conditions and made nothing like enough runs. It was worse in the NatWest Trophy, when the victims were Warwickshire, because they had shown themselves during the season to be the best team in the country and there was a feeling that they ought to have won. But for the toss of a coin, they would have completed a unique grand slam of county competitions. Now that is a serious matter, everyone said.

But help is now at hand. The

Simon Wilde finds cricket and football hoping that unusual experiments will meet with some success

Australians, who have always taken one-day cricket more seriously than the English, have come up with an imaginative solution to the long-standing problem of teams batting first having the worst of the pitch conditions. They have invented the limited limited-overs match.

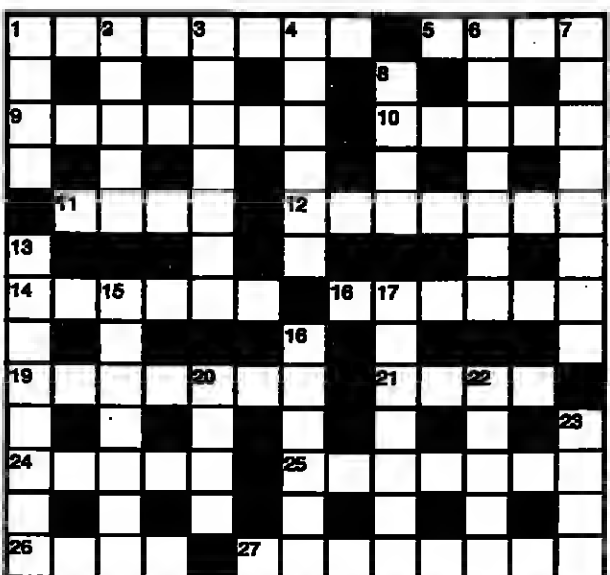
This is not such a simple idea. In a 50-overs match, Team A would bat for 25 of its 50 overs before temporarily halting its innings: Team B would

then bat for 25 overs of its innings: Team A would then resume, and complete, its innings; and Team B would then do the same. This way, the argument goes, any early advantage to be gained from the pitch conditions would be more evenly spread between the teams.

The Australians have asked the Tasmanians to try out this formula for them in two non-competitive matches next month, against Queensland and a Newcastle District XI. There are no plans, as yet, to adopt the plan this winter in either the World Series Cup, in which England compete, or the one-day Test competition. Tim Lamb, the Test and County Cricket Board's cricket secretary, said yesterday that the English authorities would be following the experiment with interest.

The second idea comes from the never simple world of the Auto Windscreens Shield, formerly the Autoglass Trophy, for second and third division football clubs. The Football League has proposed that teams level after 90 minutes in the competition's knock-out stages should not be separated by the now-reviled penalty shoot-out.

Instead, it suggests, each team shall shed one player for every five minutes of extra time played until, after 20 minutes of additional play, they have only seven players each. If the scores are still level, they will play for ten minutes of sudden-death extra time. What could be more natural?



RECENT TITLES FROM TIMES BOOKS (Reduced postage until Dec 31)
The Times Guides: International Finance £9.49, Japan £9.49, the Middle East £9.49, the Nations of the World NEW £9.49, the Peoples of Europe £16.49, Good University Guide 1994-5 £9.49, English Style and Usage £3.49, The Times Illustrated World History £13.49, The Times Maps: The World (Wall Map) £14.49 (folded) £5.49, Ireland £2.99, £3.49, British Isles NEW £2.99 x 3 £5.49, The Times Night Sky 1994 £4. Prices include P&P (UK) Cheques payable to Adam Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 271

ACROSS

- 1 Summerhouse: sports ground structure (8)
- 5 Attempt: heavy ball (4)
- 9 Inquisitive (7)
- 10 A Great Lake (5)
- 11 Nothing (4)
- 12 Discourse learnedly (on) (7)
- 14 Toast: well-being (6)
- 16 City of Calvin (6)
- 19 Temporary stay (7)
- 21 Clan: month, briefly (4)
- 24 Relating to point where leaves branch from stem (5)
- 25 Relieving pain (7)
- 26 Keep obediently to (the line) (4)
- 27 Commit another crime (8)

DOWN

- 1 With due deference to: step (4)
- 2 Poetry: one or several lines of it (5)
- 3 Take care (4,3): observer (7)
- 4 Bivalve (6)
- 6 Hairy (7)
- 7 Unmusical (4-4)
- 8 Party disciplinarian (4)
- 13 Old joke (8)
- 15 Formally pronounce (7)
- 17 Press less hard (4,3)
- 18 Dangerous (of position) (6)
- 20 Dangerous (of customer) (4)
- 22 One to whom cheque made out (5)
- 23 Flower in wrong place (4)

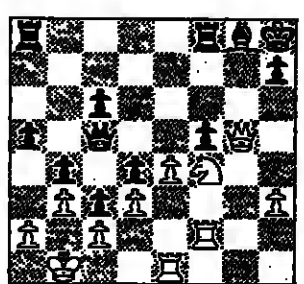
SOLUTION TO NO 270

ACROSS: 1 Built-up 5 Cleat 8 Begin 9 Limited 10 Lot 11 Tricolour 12 Nature 14 Play up 17 Last straw 18 Dan 19 Office 20 Craze 21 Eagle 22 Detract
DOWN: 1 Babylon 2 Ingot 3 Tan 4 Pallid 5 Common law 6 Entropy 7 Tudor 11 Turnstile 13 Tasting 15 Pun-gent 16 Friend 17 Loose 18 Drama 20 Cor

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Ivanchuk - Anand, Intel Grand Prix, London, 1994. In this position, Ivanchuk found a clever quiet move that proved immediately decisive. Can you do as well?

Solution, page 42
Raymond Keene, page 8

By Philip Howard

HOROPITO

- a. A Mexican gambling game
- b. A New Guinea magistrate
- c. A New Zealand tree

KANGA

- a. A large knife
- b. A blanket
- c. Indian corn

MAESTRIA

- a. A Mediterranean wind
- b. Glacial sediment
- c. Skill

MOLALE

- a. Molasses alcohol
- b. A native Oregonian
- c. A Roman siege machine

Answers on page 42



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